

Welcome to Ute Country

For the strength of the Pack
is the Wolf, and the strength
of the Wolf is the Pack.
— Rudyard Kipling



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Howdy!

We wish all of our readers a Happy New Year! Let's hope 2013 brings us precipitation, prosperity, and points to ponder. Many of us make resolutions to change behavior in hopes of becoming better people. Whatever your personal goals may be, we hope you continue to enjoy our publication as our goal is to continue to bring items of interest to our readers. We trust you'll keep us posted on our progress.

We take this opportunity to welcome Carol Grieve, wellness coach, food educator, and internet radio host. Carol will help us understand the impact of our diet and food choices in our lives. Carol brings 12 years of experience and is willing to answer your questions. Please feel free to email Carol@foodintegritynow.org.

We are also pleased to have CUSP contribute to our paper. They will keep us updated on the many projects they have undertaken in our area. They also have information we can all use since 85% of us are transplants and are happy to learn more about this high altitude, mountainous environment.

Some of the topics we will continue to cover include history as in a local who has been working on their family tree and is willing to share their family's story, a local musician whose lyrics and voice capture the spirit of mountain living, and great venues with great food like Rita's in Guffey.

We encourage new businesses to contact us. We'll do our best to set up an interview and showcase your business so our readers know what you have to offer.

Mr. Spaz is feeling a tad left out. While he had many photos to paw through for December, he's feeling neglected for January. Please help Mr. Spaz renew his hope that our readers have photos of loving pets or outdoor neighbors to share. This month, he shares photos of his favorite outdoor clique and his favorite indoor snuggle.

Here's to some interesting reading for 2013!

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A Florissant Fossil Beds Wolf Spider Discovery

by Zachary John Sepulveda and Steven Wade Veatch

The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is known worldwide for its late Eocene age (34 million years ago) fossil plants and insects. Recently, a fossil spider was discovered at the commercial quarry that is near the fossil beds. Due to the condition of this fossil, it can be assigned only to the family Lycosidae. This classification would make it a wolf spider.

This fossil wolf spider lived under prehistoric Florissant rocks, within the forest litter, or on short plants. Based on its modern relatives, this spider would have had colors that helped to camouflage it, allowing it to hide from its prey. According to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument fossil database, only one other member of the family Lycosidae (from the Greek word for wolf) has been discovered there. The eminent Russian scientist who studied fossil spiders—Alexander Ivanovitch Petrunkovitch—described this fossil member of the Lycosidae family from a well-preserved fossil specimen and assigned it to the species name *Lycosa florissantii*.

Spiders belong to the class Arachnida. Unlike insects, arachnids have eight legs instead of six, have two body sections instead of three, and do not have antennae or wings.

These spiders are incredibly successful—with a lineage stretching back millions of years. With over 100 genera and 2,300 species, they are capable predators spread throughout the entire globe and can inhabit almost every type of environment. From shrub lands to coastal forests, from gardens to alpine meadows, most of these spiders are wanderers and vagrants with no set home or residence but can live just about anywhere.

Wolf spiders hunt in many different ways, depending on the species, size, prey types, and habitats. These spiders are known to ambush and even chase down insect prey. Some species jump from hiding to pounce on prey. These organisms are important controllers of harmful insects, and even though they can be dangerous to people, their presence is generally considered favorable.

Most of the few species that stay in one place throughout their lives live in small burrows lined with webs. They simply sit inside and wait for prey to come close, and then they spring from their burrows and attack. Some of these desert dwelling burrowing spiders will even plug their burrows with leaves and pebbles to avoid flooding.

Wolf spiders range in body size from 10.2 mm (0.4 inches) to 30.5 mm (1.2 inches) long, and can be even larger in diameter with their legs outstretched. In some species, the venom is mild, but in others it is potent and is known to cause necrotic wounds, which create an area of dead flesh. Most of the species that have necrotic bites are native to South America and Australia.

The identification of fossil spiders at Florissant remains difficult because they tend to be poorly preserved, owing to their soft bodies as compared to the harder bodies of insects. This wolf spider, found on a sunny summer day in 2012, is no different than the other fossil spiders that leave unclear impressions in the shale, making identification to the species level all but impossible.



Image of fossil spider (family Lycosidae) split along the bedding plane of the ancient Lake Florissant shales showing the two halves. Found at the commercial fossil quarry near the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Scale bar in centimeters. Photo © S. W. Veatch.

About the authors:

Zachary Sepulveda recently moved to the Pikes Peak region from San Diego, CA. He became interested in paleontology by visiting the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles as often as he could. He is a junior member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and is part of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars Program. Zach is 15 years old and is in 10th grade at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument, Colorado.



Steven Veatch lives in the Pikes Peak region. His has been a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society since 5th grade and is a member of the Western Interior Paleontological Society. Veatch is the leader of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars Program. Veatch lives next to the Florissant fossil beds and continues research in the region.



PPRH New “Joint Replacement Program” to Launch in January!

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital & Surgery Center will launch a new “Joint Replacement Program” this January to help educate candidates for joint replacement about what to expect, how to prepare and to learn about the surgery. In fact, if you’ve been suffering from disabling joint pain that no longer responds to conservative treatments (and your doctor has begun dropping hints about joint replacement), you may be relieved to participate in the program just to see what total joint replacement is all about.

Improvements in design and surgical techniques have made total joint replacements a leader in cost-to-utility benefit for patients suffering from disabling joint conditions.



Linda Johnson, RN (left) and Wendy Westall

Over 90% of patients who undergo a total joint replacement can likely expect more than a decade of life improving benefits.

Linda Johnson, RN in Same Day Surgery at PPRH, will roll-out the program in January of 2013. Classes will be held each second and fourth Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. Your Pre-admission testing can also be completed at that time.

For more information, please contact the Program Coordinator, Wendy Westall, at 719-686-5779. To register for an upcoming class you may contact the hospital at the main number, 719-687-9999 or Surgery Scheduling at 719- 686-5775. You can also check it out on our PPRH Facebook page.

Tarryall Ice Fishing Tournament

Sponsored by Chaparral Park General Store
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Opportunity knocks, "Trusted Mitigation" emerges!

by Kathy Hansen

It is often said, "Necessity is the mother of invention". How true. This past spring and summer brought to our awareness earlier than usual the threat of fire. The Springer Fire and just days later the Waldo Canyon Fire brought that threat even closer to home. As if that weren't enough, the wave of arsons in Teller County triggered major concern. Scary!

Matthew and Cindy Delesdernier were quite aware of the fire threat in their community. They had been on stand-by for the Springer Fire. After three fires were started in their subdivision, Arabian Acres had created a neighborhood watch at the entrance of the subdivision which they volunteered to tend. The intention was that neighbors could be given any updates on containment, arson activities, or simply greeted. Likewise, folks who were lost might be given direction. Should the arsonist drive into the subdivision there now is a witness to the type of vehicle, occupants, and time of arrival.

Matthew and Cindy realized this is not enough. While many people in the subdivision took action to care for their properties they had neighbors that simply weren't able to take the appropriate steps. This might be due to schedules, extended commutes due to Hwy 24 closure, lack of tools or know-how, or simply because they are not able to do



Matthew and Cindy Delesdernier

yard work. Now the need had been identified and their business concept had been born. Matthew's years of construction experience coupled with Cindy's years of retail management experience prompted the conceptualization; provide a service to help those who are unable to properly mitigate their own yards, for a fee.

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Yes, necessity is the mother of invention and in this case helped Trusted Mitigation get their start. So, if your property could needs attention which you cannot provide, call your neighbors at Trusted Mitigation to get the job done.

Antero Ice Fishing Contest

The annual Antero Ice Fishing Contest will be held Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Antero Reservoir in South Park, Colo. Participants of all ages are invited to participate in this fun, family-friendly contest.

Anglers will compete for first-, second- and third-place cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100, as well as door prizes from event sponsors. Event proceeds will go to recreational improvements and enhancements at Antero Reservoir. The event is hosted by Denver Water, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP).

Early registration is \$20 per person for

the main trout fishing event, and is highly encouraged. Registration on the day of the event is \$30 (cash only) per person.

Early registration cut-off dates:

- Mail — Post-marked no later than Jan. 15, 2013
- Online — Jan. 17, 2013
- Phone and walk-in — Jan. 18, 2013

For more information and to register online, go to www.antero-icefishing-contest.com or contact the Coalition for the Upper South Platte at 719-748-0033 or cup@upersouthplatte.org.

Divide Chamber

A successful year ends with a Christmas dinner

by David Martinek

photo by Jeff Hansen

Divide Chamber of Commerce members joined the chamber's Board of Directors on Wednesday evening, December 12th, for their annual Christmas dinner. The John Wesley Ranch Lodge, located just south of Divide on Highway 67, was decorated for the season and a roaring fire burned in the huge fireplace as members gathered.

The annual membership dinner was not only a celebration of the holidays; it was also a celebration of a very successful year for the organization.

Starting in May, the chamber sponsored a business-after-hours in conjunction with the Community Partnership and Resource Center. The event drew a large crowd, including all of the candidates for the empty seats on the Teller County Board of County Commissioners.

In August, the chamber held its annual Great Divide Kite Flight and Divide-wide Yard Sale, two events that were combined for the second year, both of which were highly attended. In fact, the yard sale grew so large after only one-year of experience that it had to be held in the Summit Elementary School parking lot.

Finally, the chamber's Christmas in Divide Craft Fair kicked off the holiday season, as it always does, by offering gift



The John Wesley Ranch Lodge hosted the Divide dinner.

ideas and entertainment to the community. The annual November event, always right around Veterans' Day, continues to draw parents and grandparents alike, as well as the general public, to a fair that offers family fun. Co-sponsored by the PTO of Summit Elementary School, the chamber's Christmas in Divide is its major fund-raiser each year.

So there was much to celebrate this year, including the chamber's continued support of the renovation of the Midland Depot in Divide. Dave Martinek gave a slide presentation on the work that had to be accomplished over the summer to rehabilitate the depot's foundation.

The Divide Chamber of Commerce looks forward to a new year in 2013 with renewed opportunities to serve the community of Divide. For more information about the chamber, call or email them at 719.686.7605 or at info@dividechamber.org.



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Colonel Benjamin F. Montgomery

The man who created Teller County

by David Martinek

(A petition before the Colorado Supreme Court – January 1913)
“To the Honorable Supreme Court of the State of Colorado: A general election was held in the state of Colorado on the 5th day of November, 1912, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of said state. That at said election one Benjamin F. Montgomery was a candidate upon the Democratic ticket for the office of Lieutenant Governor of said state for the term beginning on the second Tuesday of January, 1913. That at the canvas of the votes duly held by the joint session of both Houses of the Nineteenth General Assembly, on the 3rd day of January, 1913, it appeared from said canvas that Benjamin F. Montgomery, candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the Democratic ticket, received a plurality of all votes cast. That on the 30th day of December, and prior to the canvass of said votes, the said Benjamin F. Montgomery departed this life.”

In January 1913, the General Assembly of Colorado was faced with a dilemma. As they were counting the votes cast during the November general election of 1912, they learned that the man elected as Lieutenant Governor, one Benjamin F. Montgomery, had died only five day before. What to do? Shortly thereafter, the Senate petitioned the Colorado Supreme Court for resolution, suggesting that the term of the outgoing Lieutenant Governor, Stephen Fitzgarrald of Telluride, be extended for another term. In fact, state records indicate that Fitzgarrald was Lieutenant Governor until 1915. But what of Montgomery?
One chronicler characterized him as “... one of the most commanding figures in Colorado politics, one of the ablest attorneys at the Cripple Creek bar and one of the most active citizens of Colorado in all affairs affecting the economic welfare of the state.” His death closed the book on a remarkable life filled with achievement, good reputation, genuine public appeal and political fortitude.
His life began in 1835 in Olivesburg, Ohio. Not much is known of his childhood, but after graduating from Ashland University, Montgomery worked and taught school to continue his education. He read the law and at the age of twenty-two was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1857. He set up practice in London, Ohio (in Madison County) and married Miss Edith Riddle.


In 1860 Montgomery and his family moved to LaCrosse, Wisconsin. During the Civil War years, B. F. (as he was called) acquired the rank of Colonel, either due to military service or as an honorary title. The record is vague about how he obtained that rank. After the war, and the death of Edith (from typhoid fever), he entered politics in the fall of 1866 as the Democratic nominee for the State Senate from LaCrosse County. He was beaten by Angus Cameron, later a U. S. Senator from Wisconsin. Despite his political aspirations, Colonel B. F. Montgomery’s public service was unbiased by partisan policy, and he gained a reputation as an effective trial lawyer.
Shortly after his loss to Cameron, Montgomery married Minnie Carpenter from Hutchinson, Kansas and moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa as attorney for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. During his 10 years in Iowa, B. F. connected with and was counsel to several railroad companies while continuing his political career. In 1870 he was the Democratic nominee for Congress for the Sixth District of Iowa. In 1876, he ran for State Senator. He lost both races, as Iowa was a strong Republican state. Yet, he remained active in politics and was a four-time delegate for Iowa to the National Democratic Conventions, from 1864 to 1876. In addition to his law practice and political races, Colonel B. F.

Montgomery also was editor of the “Council Bluffs Times” for several years. In that capacity, he proved to be a valiant Democratic Party supporter, as well as a forceful writer and equally effective public speaker.
By 1878, Montgomery was 43 years old when he journeyed to Colorado on vacation. He immediately recognized the growing opportunities in the mining industry and became interested in mining property near Silver Cliff. He soon moved to Denver. Once in Colorado, he quickly appeared in a high-profile mining case known as the Bull-Domingo suit.
During the trail, the court was emotional charged and under cover of revolvers. All the participants – the judge, attorneys and witnesses – were often “menaced by large bodies of armed men” from time to time outside the courtroom. When the judge’s decree fell in favor of Colonel Montgomery’s clients in June of 1879, Montgomery was launched onto the Colorado scene as a courageous and able lawyer with an enviable reputation. He resided in Denver for fourteen years as a general practitioner and was known to all as one of the most active attorneys in the state.
Moving to Cripple Creek in 1894, just a few years after Womack’s gold discovery, he cast his lot with the gold camp. Although his time was divided between Colorado Springs, Denver and the district, where he was frequently called in on important mining litigation or other matters, he was also soon recognized as one of the leaders of the Democratic Party in El Paso County. His popularity resulted in his election to the state legislature in 1899, receiving a large part of the popular vote in the county. He served in the Colorado House of Representatives for four years (from 1899 to 1902) and was Speaker of the House in 1901-02.

During four prior General Assembly sessions, the question of dividing El Paso County and creating a new county for the Cripple Creek mining district became a contentious and fierce conflict among rival factions - the proposition failing four times prior to Montgomery’s arrival. Upon taking office in January 1899, B. F. championed the question and is credited with waging a masterful fight that eventually won the day. It was said that his abilities as a forceful debater, a superior parliamentarian and a remarkable public speaker were unparalleled.
On March 8, 1899, Teller County was carved out of El Paso and Fremont Counties with Cripple Creek becoming its county seat. A grand celebration was held in the city two weeks later, with Colonel B. F. Montgomery as an honored guest.

During his 42 years at-the-bar, Montgomery defended over twenty-seven murder cases, clearing all but two, and represented numerous mining cases involving millions of dollars. He was often called upon to render an opinion in a variety of disputes and questions. He was chairman of the two Democratic Conventions that nominated Governor Adams. In 1898 he was elected president of the International Mining Congress. While Colonel Montgomery was prominently mentioned for a seat in the National Congress in 1902, after leaving the Colorado legislature, he was not elected to office again until, at the age of 77, he won the office of Lieutenant Governor; an office he never held. He died on December 29, 1912.

Colonel Benjamin F. Montgomery had a chorus of friends, and just as many bitter enemies, neither of which he is said to have ever forgotten. He was positive and uncompromising in his views about most every subject. He was always ready to tackle the cause of his clients with unrelenting ferocity. He was a man of remarkable self-possession, spontaneous on his feet, his thoughts flowing vigorously and with an amazing capacity to effectively control the sentiment of his audience. He was, perhaps, one of the most charismatic men in Colorado. Teller County may not have existed were it not for his efforts.



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Sam who?

by Rainey Hall

Was Sam a man just trying to make a living? A smart, determined, extraordinary entrepreneur is more like it.

Sam Hartsel was born in Pennsylvania on November 22, 1835. At fifteen, he became a cattle driver, moving herds between Ohio and New York for six dollars a month. Some historians state he walked and did not ride a horse during these drives. Approximately two years later, he began his own business in Iowa, but he deemed Iowa winters too harsh. He then moved to Kansas in 1856 to work for the largest freight company on the plains at that time. Russell, Major & Waddell had government contracts to carry supplies from Ft. Leavenworth to forts and Indians in the west. In this position, Hartsel was responsible for overseeing the animals.

Mr. Hartsel arrived in South Park Colorado in 1860 thinking he'd be a miner. He soon recognized there was more future (and money) in raising food for, at first, the mining camps. He located a small acreage approximately three miles from the town of Tarryall. Not the Tarryall most of us think of today. This community was located near the present town of Como, gateway to Boreas Pass. (It's a beautiful drive over the pass, but if your passenger is fearful of heights, begin on the Breckenridge side.)

Sam chose to be a prisoner of the vast serenity, clean air, and cold water. He must have known the land would be harsh, yet rewarding, challenging, but memorable. Hartsel took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1862, and quickly acquired 160 acres where the Middle Fork and South Fork of the South Platte join the South Platte River.

Scholars agree that Mr. Hartsel procured the tired oxen used to transport miners from the plains to the mountains. He then grazed them on the high mountain grasses full of protein.

Sam knew cattle. In addition to possibly owning Texas Longhorns and Herefords, Hartsel drove 148 Shorthorn cows and two Shorthorn bulls from Missouri to Bent's Fort in southern Colorado and wintered there. The drive continued in the spring, finally arriving at his ranch in South Park. In regards to these cattle, an article in a December, 1874 edition of the Colorado Springs Gazette reads, "... to bring his herd up to the highest state of perfection attainable by judicious breeding."

It was by accident Sam found cattle could survive the winters in Park County *better* than wintering them in lower elevations. When moving the cattle back and forth they lost weight, and usually ate less quality feed. Again in the Colorado Springs Gazette, "... the first winter of '63 '64 was a success in every particular, no loss occurring...but two or three calves by wolves.

Cattle weren't the only money makers for Sam. He built businesses necessary to ranching: a blacksmith shop, wagon shop, trading post, hotel, and sawmill. They all became the present day town of Hartsel, formed in 1880. An advertisement in the August 23, 1912 edition of the Fairplay Flume states, "The Hotel Hartsel is first-class in every particular...A cool, pleasant summer resort, close to good fishing..."

Research shows Mr. Hartsel was the first to bring horses to South Park. He did so in 1881 from Illinois. Additionally, Sam offered a part Thoroughbred stallion for sire services.

He also dug ditches to better irrigate his hay, built miles and miles of fencing, and made room on his ranch for J.S. Reef & Co., wholesale meat dealers.

Hartsel experimented with crops such as potatoes, barley, oats, winter wheat, and winter rye. The latter two were supposed to have done quite well.

Located on the homestead was a natural hot springs where Indians often stopped to bathe. Sam made a water wheel system that brought the hot water into his home. In a book by Linda Bjorklund "The pipe was made of logs, nine inches in diameter with a hole bored through the center for the water to flow through."

It was a natural entrepreneurial move to create a public hot springs and bathhouse. Guests at the Hartsel Hotel were allotted one bath per day in the hot springs, taken there by a hansom, (a horse drawn carriage).

Sam's enterprises proliferated when the Colorado Midland Railway reached South Park from Colorado Springs.

Stories indicate Sam Hartsel had a reputation of being a shrewd business man using



Sam Hartsel – phot credit: www.parkcoarchives.org

common sense. It was said he was scrupulously honest and fair in his dealings.

Hartsel, the Ute, and Arapaho Indians dealt impartially with one another creating friendships of a sort between him and the separate tribes. One account states Sam offered a large Ute tribe to stay in the cattle sheds just off Hwy 24 during an unexpected snow storm.

Finally in 1877 at age 42 Sam married a widow with two daughters, Nancy Boone Mayol. Perhaps she was attracted to his consistently well-trimmed beard. Mrs. Hartsel gave Sam three more daughters and one son. Samuel B. drowned in an irrigation ditch when he was just over one year old. None of the girls remained in Park County.

Mr. Hartsel continued to ranch through the turn of the century. He was appointed several times to be the roundup commissioner for District 13.

Sam's operations flourished into over



MRS. HARTSEL AND CHILD

Mrs. Hartsel & Child – photo credit: www.hartselspringsranch.com/Ranch/History.html

8,700 acres, including the town, by the time he sold. Retiring to Denver, he went into the real estate business.

All good things come to pass, and so did Sam, on November 20, 1918.

He, Nancy, and Samuel B. all have final burials in Fairmont cemetery in Denver, Colorado.

The hotel carriage house is now used as an antique shop, and the former west wing of the hotel is a modern trading post.

Dig up a nugget of knowledge, graze on the fresh air, have fun, and make memories in the Hartsel area of South Park.

A side note: The hot springs are covered and on private land, however, it is worth a day of exploration to discover what South Park offers. There are several historical sites, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography opportunities, and cross country skiing, hiking and horseback riding trails. All of them are approximately 1 1/2 hours from Colorado Springs.

Acknowledgements:

Hartsel: *History of a Town*, by Linda Bjorklund
Park County Historical Society, Christie Wright
South Park National Heritage Area, Executive Director Linda Balough
Hartsel Springs Ranch
Colorado Historical Newspapers/Fairplay Flume

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Happy National Fossil Day!

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups were well represented in an art contest to celebrate the third National Fossil Day. The National Park Service and the American Geological Institute partnered to host the third annual National Fossil Day on October 17, 2012 during Earth Science Week. National Fossil Day is a celebration organized to promote public awareness and stewardship of fossils, as well as to foster a greater appreciation of their scientific and educational value.

Here are the winners of the contest: Ciena Higginbotham First Place 14-18 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Lake George Gem and Mineral Club) and Jack Shimon Third Place 5-8 year old category Pikes Peak Pebble Pups (Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society). It is unusual to have two winners in a national contest from the same informal educational group.

Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars (teens) were invited via the Pikes Peak Pebble Pup website to participate in the contest sponsored by the National Park Service. Several Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars responded.

The national winners were posted on the following National Park Service Website: http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday/art_contest_2012_results.cfm

The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars explore the wonders of rock, mineral, and fossil collecting in the Pikes Peak region. This program participates with the Future Rockhounds of America under the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The purpose is to train Pebble Pups and Junior Members (teens) to become skilled rockhounds and enjoy science. The Pebble Pups and teen members of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club use this blog site to display their research, writing, art, and yes, even Earth science poetry: <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/>

Many of the pebble pups have been published in international magazines, newspapers, and electronic media. A large number of the Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars have received science writing awards. Several members have participated in science fairs and the regional Science Olympiad at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Similar groups have launched some of the careers of notable geologists and paleontologists.

The Pebble Pup leader is Steven Veatch, a



Jack Shimon



Ciena Higginbotham



Steven Veatch

volunteer interpretive ranger at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Veatch is strongly supported by John Rakowski, Dr. Bob Carnein, Julie Shimon, Roger Pittman, Allison Schlesinger, Sharon Holte, Betty Merchant, and all of the parents.

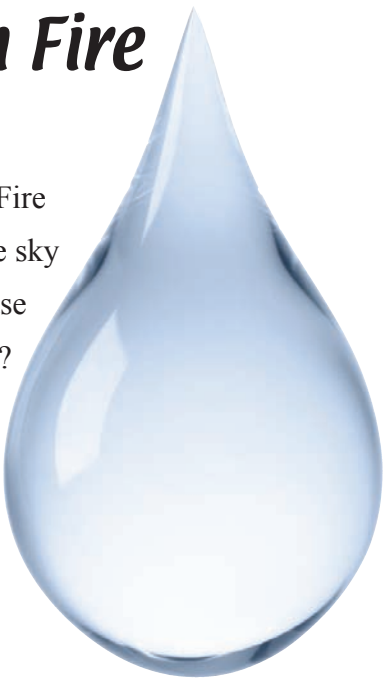
A celebration and reception has been planned at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to recognize these young paleo-artists on January 19th, 2013. Festivities will begin at 9:30 am. The Pebble Pups and their friends and families will honor the two winners, tour the new visitor center, and then do some fun paleo activities in the yurt. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will be providing refreshments. There will be lots of excitement and more fun than we can stand.

The Waldo Canyon Fire

by Jack Shimon, age 8

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

I live by the Waldo Canyon Fire
I saw flames and smoke in the sky
My art teacher lost her house
How did this happen here?
We had a big drought
The trees are dry
We need more
Water
Now



Note: this poem is a nonet. A nonet is a nine line poem. The first line containing nine syllables, the next line has eight syllables, the next line has seven syllables. That continues until the last line (the ninth line) which has one syllable. Nonets can be written about any subject. Rhyming is optional.

Author Bio: Jack Shimon is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Pebble Pups and he participates with the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars on projects, field trips, and community outreach projects. He has fun and school and brings his dog Comet to all Pebble Pup meetings. Comet is the mascot for the CSMS Pebble Pups. Jack turned 8 in December.

Jack Shimon's Publications

- The Florissant Fossil Quarry (A Field Trip Guide) Jack Shimon *Pick&Pack*
- Earth Caching Around Colorado Springs: Fossils and Geological Features Revealed Jack and Julie Shimon *Pick& Pack* - May 2011
- A Fossil Hunting Trip to the Glen Rose Formation, Texas Jack and Julie Shimon *Pick&Pack* - April 2011 - earned Written Features 1st Place March 2012 by RMFMS (Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies--13 states)
- Picketwire Canyon Field Trip: A Journey to the Mesozoic Jack and Julie Shimon *Pick&Pack* - Dec 2012 -earned Junior Article (under 12) 2nd Place, June 2011 by RMFMS
- Looking for Clifford and His Friends in Palmer Park Jack and Julie Shimon, and other Pups *Pick&Pack* Nov 2011 -earned Photo Story Features- 2nd Place, March 2012 by RMFMS
- Earthcaching at Red Rock Canyon Open Space Jack and Julie Shimon and other Pups *Pick&Pack* - Dec 2011



Jack Shimon receives another award.

- Geology (poem) Jack Shimon *Pick&Pack* - Jan 2012
- Hiking Through the Ice Age: Smilodon vs. Uintatherium Jack Shimon *Pick&Pack* - Jan 2012
- Nonet on Waldo Canyon Fire Jack Shimon *Pick&Pack* - Dec 2012

All of Jack's work is published on the Pebble Pup blog site Pebble pups Blog <http://pebblepups.blogspot.com/>

20Th annual community cook-off and tasting

by Maurice Wells

For the last 20 years a fund raiser has been held to benefit the Lake George Library. Saturday, January 26 is the date for the 2013 event and the theme is "Five Ingredients or Less". The item prepared may be an appetizer, main dish, side or dessert. Water does not count, with any combination of spices or seasonings considered as one ingredient.

This year the event will be held in the Lake George Charter School cafeteria. The

activity will start at 5 PM, but those entering a dish should arrive at 4:30 PM and have a copy of their recipe. All those entering will receive a copy of this year's cookbook. Also, winners in each category will receive a beautiful trophy.

There is a donation charge of \$5 for adults and there is no charge for children. For additional information call 748-3812 M-TH and Sat.

Adopt Me Bailey

Hello, I'm bailey. I used to be a trader on Wall Street, but I found the pace maddening and the integrity of some other traders questionable at best, so when my firm offered an early out, I jumped at it. Now I'm looking for a more peaceful lifestyle. Perhaps in the mountains, where I can lay in the grass with a cool breeze blowing over me and the birds singing above. I'm thinking of taking up gardening, but first have to find the right family looking just for me! I am hoping this new year bring me luck in finding forever love. Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! www.tcras-colorado.com



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Work on the depot is finished

by David Martinek

photos by David Martinek

For all intents and purposes the planned work on the Midland Depot in Divide was finished according to schedule towards the end of December. The work that began the end of July 2012 by Andersen Enterprises is complete. Thanks to the expert supervision of Louis R. Unzelman, Project Manager, and Charles Severance of CRS Architects, the planned rehabilitation of the depot foundation now gives the structure the kind of solid support that will be needed as future preservation phases are implemented.

The list of issues and renovations that were required to put the depot foundation back into shape reads like a history summary.

Floor beams and joists, rotted after 108 years, were either replaced or new wood was bolted to the old. The pine stumps that supported the building during its lifetime were removed and new cement pads poured. The entire building had to be raised and leveled as a result of over a hundred years of settling and subsidence, mostly on the west end. All of the floor lumber had to be taken up and stored, as well as the original leaded

glass windows (not a pane was broken). Old blown-in insulation was dumped out and new batting installed before a new stem wall and moisture barrier were constructed to protect the building's foundation in the future.

As a result of flooding during the summer of 2011, which completely inundated the crawl space under the depot, as well as the floor of the east annex, a new French drain was laid around the depot perimeter. Fabric was laid



Close up view.

over the drain ditch and a small berm mounded up around the building to protect it from future flooding while more work is planned.

After much research regarding the original paint colors of the depot, when it was built in 1904, the building was painted and trimmed in the reddish-brown and cream colors that paint-chip analysis says was there.

Finally, while the mystery still exists, the archeologist's report does shed some light on what relationship there may be between the first depot, built in Divide in 1887 (which burned in the mid 1890s), and the present building. Richard Carillo of Cuartelejo HP Associates, the professional archeologist hired to evaluate the historic artifacts uncovered during the excavation around the depot, is pretty sure that the first station was located somewhere other than the site of the current structure. Once the interior foundation of the depot was excavated, no evidence of fire could be found. It is Carillo's opinion that the first one was perhaps located slightly more east of the present depot and annex. He recommends that the property along the for-



View of painted south side

mer rail beds be examined in the near future by ground penetrating radar to see if an old foundation for the first depot can be found.

Despite the mystery, which is more interesting than disappointing, the effort on the depot over the last five months has been a 'dream come true' for the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition, the non-profit organization sponsoring the work and the group responsible for achieving the State Historical Fund grant in 2011 that funded the project. The winter months of 2013 will be spent by the Coalition to determine what the next steps are to continue the renovation of the depot – formulating plans to keep the excitement and momentum going.

Mustang Magic

by Flip Boettcher

photos by Flip Boettcher

Cinnamon Girl, a five year old wild Nevada mustang mare, and Justin Dunn, Guffey-area horse trainer, are a team in the upcoming Mustang Magic event sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF) in Ft. Worth, TX, to be held on January 24, 25 and 26, 2013.

The Magic event is part of the BLM Adopt-a-Mustang program in partnership with the MHF which showcases the adaptability and what a wild mustang is capable of doing as well as showing what a trainer can do with that mustang.

According to Dunn, there are 20 competitors in the Magic event. All of the competitors had to place in the top 10 of one of the BLM Mustang Makeover events held this past summer all over the United States and then be invited to the Magic event.

In the Makeover event, the trainers had 90 days from mustang pick-up day until the competition to take a wild, gelded mustang fresh off the range and train it into an auctionable, adoptable horse.

In the Magic event the trainers have 120 days to train their wild mustang mares for the competition. The Makeover and the Magic events have similar categories of competition including handling & conditioning, a trail class, compulsory maneuvers and a reining pattern according to the MHF website: www.mustangheritagefoundation.org, with the top 10 then going on to the three and a half minute freestyle competition where the trainers can really show off the abilities of their mares.

The purse for the Magic event is \$10,000 split between 10 competitors with first place getting \$3500, as well as the prestige and recognition of being a trainer in the Magic event stated Dunn.

Dunn, who plans on being in the top 10 said he will be riding Cinnamon Girl bridleless in the freestyle competition. Going bridleless means no connection between the rider's hands and the horse's head. "All is accomplished with leg and seat pressure only," stated Dunn, which he started from day one of training.

After Dunn picked up Cinnamon Girl on September 17, at the BLM mustang holding facility east of Canon City where she had been for the past two years, he had to be away for three weeks with no training for the mustang. Even with the late start, Dunn said he was riding Cinnamon Girl by day six and then got bucked off on day eight! By day 23, when we visited Dunn on December 5, Dunn stated amazingly, "Cinnamon Girl was 100% bridleless at a walk, 80% bridleless at a trot and about 50-50 bridleless at a canter using only leg and seat commands."

Cinnamon Girl demonstrated that bridleless she can backup, walk, stop, spin, turn left or right and do a rollback, which is a back step and then a hard left or right. Currently Cinnamon Girl is working on

cross stepping side to side left or right while straddling a log, which is part of the competition. Cinnamon Girl also follows Dunn around without a lead rope and will follow hand signals from Dunn while walking and working around him in a circle.

Dunn attributes a lot of his success with Cinnamon Girl and why he feels he is so far along in her training to the equine massage therapy she is undergoing. Equine therapeutic mas-

sage therapist Bill O'Connell of Pike Trails Ranches subdivision west of Guffey and owner of Ranch Hand Services, has been using Cinnamon Girl as part of his case studies leading up to his certification the first of the year as a Level I equine therapist from the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage located in Carbondale, Colorado, where he started his studies September 1 of this year.

O'Connell said he uses a therapeutic Swedish massage, just like for humans. O'Connell stressed that his massage therapy wasn't a treatment, but more for overall health and well-being of the horse. According to O'Connell, "Massage benefits horses in many ways, including, but not limited to, increased circulation, increased lymph movement in the muscles and boosts the immune system." Therapeutic massage can also increase flexibility and range of motion, help release tightness in tissue and muscles and also help the horse become accustomed to the human touch, lacking for the wild mustang.

O'Connell, who always wanted to be a human massage therapist, decided he wanted to help and give back to the horse and all animals for all that they do for us, plans on starting his Level II – deep tissue massage this spring and Level III – performance



Cinnamon Girl without bridle

horse class next fall.

Cinnamon Girl will be getting a series of four therapeutic massages three weeks apart, said Dunn. Mustangs are always on high alert with constant concern for their surroundings. The equine massage therapy seems to calm them down and make them more open to learning. Dunn stated that horses are far more sensitive than people realize and a fifty minute massage helps integrate their mind and body.

Dunn said that Cinnamon Girl is the smartest, most sensitive horse he has ever trained, but Dunn will not be keeping her unless she doesn't fetch at least \$5,000 at the auction.

Dunn also stated that the BLM and the MHF have added another mustang event starting next year, the Mustang Million with a \$750,000 purse split between ten people with \$200,000 and a truck to the first place winner.

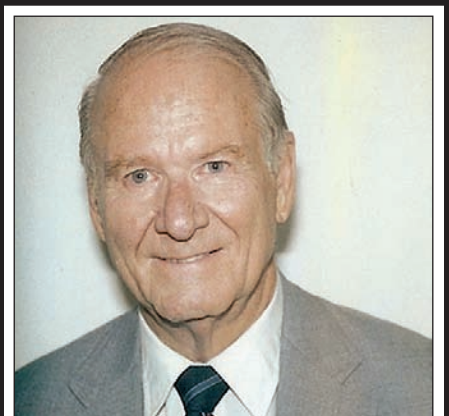
For more information, visit the MHF website or the BLM website: www.blm.gov/. Visit YouTube to see Dunn's freestyle competition last July in the Mustang Makeover in Ft. Collins called "He's freaking Zorro", where Dunn was dressed as Zorro. You may contact Dunn at www.dunnshighcountry.com, or Justin@dunnshighcountry.com, and contact Bill O'Connell at ranchhandservices@hughes.net, or 719-479-4013. For more info on massage contact the Rocky Mountain School of Animal Acupressure and Massage: <http://www.rmsaam.com/index.html>.

News from the Rampart Library District

by Rita Randolph

Happy New Year from the Rampart Library District and the Florissant Public Library! Did you get a new Kindle/Nook/iPad or some other eReader for a holiday present? If you did you can save \$\$ by checking out books from the Rampart Library District online. With a RE-2 resident library card you can go the website and borrow books. Really! Just go to our website at <http://rampart.colibraries.org>, click on Overdrive, and look for "Getting Started" on the left of the window to be on your way to borrowing free books on your device. We have several handouts in the libraries giving step-by-step instruction for different devices.

Did you know that the Florissant Public Library not only has internet computers available but we also have wifi? Besides books and magazines, we also have movies, cds, and Playaways to check out.



Carmen Stiles is latest Who's Who Award Winner

Covington has selected a new member to be included in their 2012 Who's Who Awards. That person is Carmon Stiles, PhD, recognized for his leadership in international affairs and media participation. His background includes vice president of a petroleum company that took him to over 62 countries and across the United States in the field of marketing. The government became interested and for 20 years Stiles was regional director for the International Trade Administration. He worked with small businesses to bring them into trade centers in Japan, Mexico, Italy, U.K., Portugal and Canada. He was recognized by the International Trade Administration for his leadership in exporting. Often, he spoke at universities and large companies on the subject of international trade. Following his government service Stiles founded his own company, Commercial Consulting Services, to assist companies in doing business abroad. Out of all the countries he has been in, Stiles chose the state of Colorado as the best place to live. When he came to Teller County, he designed and constructed his dream home in Divide. Next, he founded the office of International Center for the Mayor of Colorado Springs attracting many international leaders to Colorado. Following that, he and his wife, Beverly, established the International Visitors Council Program for Foreign Visitors to Colorado bringing them to Teller County to learn how smaller cities and organizations could effectively operate using volunteer people for fire prevention and fighting, law enforcements and managing county and local governments. Following that, they bought and actively became the owners and publishers of the "Ute Country News" with distribution in Teller and Park Counties, which is now owned by Jeff and Kathy Hansen. For these achievements, Carmon has been selected for international recognition in Who's Who International.

Indigo Mountain Nature Center

by Kathy Hansen

“Love is made up of three unconditional properties in equal measure: Acceptance, understanding, and appreciation. Remove any one of the three and the triangle falls apart, which, by the way, is something highly inadvisable. Think about it — do you really want to live in a world of only two dimensions? So, for the love of a triangle, please keep love whole.”

This beautiful quote by Vera Nazarian seems the most appropriate way to begin this story about Indigo Mountain Nature Center located in Lake George. This is a very special place not only because of the beauty that surrounds it, more because of the love, acceptance, understanding, and appreciation that is its foundation. Their focus for the animals is to rehabilitate, medically and emotionally, acclimate to humans when possible, and to provide a safe home. The animals in turn can help to educate people as in the internship programs.

Indigo Mountain Nature Center was founded by Sue Cranston and Carol Scarborough, two incredible women who know the true meaning of loving animals and humans alike. They provide homes for exotic animals who were bred in captivity, then stripped of the opportunity to learn to live on their own. They never learned how to forage for food or develop skills necessary to thrive in the wild. The animals came from humane societies and shelters, owner surrender (those humans who eventually came to the realization they cannot possibly meet the needs of these animals), breeders (more the puppy mill type breeders), sanctuaries, various rescue organizations and animal control. These animals would otherwise perish if not for this very special place. It is illegal in the state of Colorado to release an animal bred in captivity into the wild. This makes Colorado a great home for Indigo Mountain Nature Center.

Each of these animals has had a very difficult “childhood” misunderstood and mistreated by humans. We will not go into great detail of how each has been abused because this is about how these animals have been given the opportunity to heal, rehabilitate, and become teachers to others.

Sue and Carol broke ground in 2000 and took in their first residents in May. There was a great deal of grant writing, licensing, and footwork before they could open. It is imperative that the habitats help to keep the residents in as well as keeping local predators out. We were surprised to learn their fences must go below ground as many of their residents are instinctive diggers. Please keep in mind Indigo Mountain relies heavily on their volunteers, which they are always looking for.

Our visit began with a mix of “coy-dogs”

a coyote and dog mix. Sue shares how Gizmo, a feral animal who came to them from TCRAS has a strong aversion to humans. Sue and Carol know it may take years, if ever, for Gizmo to learn to trust humans. Because they understand how fearful Gizmo is, they do not attempt to connect directly to Gizmo. Instead, they continue to connect to Gizmo’s pen-mates. This gives Gizmo the opportunity to observe the safe interaction between humans and pen-mates. Sue and Carol trust that eventually Gizmo will come to be less fearful of them. Until then, as with all the other residents, Sue and Carol carefully listen with their eyes as they watch signs and positions of ears, tails, and other

body language, because they can interpret that sooner than the animals will speak English. This requires patience, acceptance, and understanding of Gizmo’s feral state.

We slowly move toward an enclosure of wolf-dogs, one of two groups referred to as Behavioral Studies Packs. Students from PIMA Medical Institute going for Veterinary Technician or Pikes Peak Community College for Zoo Keeping come here to complete their internships. This is valuable hands on experience one cannot get from a book.

The wolf-dogs noticed us coming up the drive and announced our arrival. We could easily see some were much more outgoing than others. Jeff found as he took his sunglasses off and crouched down to take their photo, they seemed to calm and become more interested in us. We must keep in mind many of these residents are fearful of humans and they have no way of knowing if we will hurt them as they had been hurt in the past. Sue directs us verbally throughout our visit, when we need to avoid eye contact and simply move past habitats where the fear level remains high. We are happy to oblige.

We move onto the bear habitat. There are three females and 1 male. Tenaya, the male, would have been a “guaranteed hunt bear” if not for Indigo Mountain providing refuge when he was only six months old. Ahwan- hee, means “gaping mouth”, is afraid of the other two females, so she has her own enclosure. She came from MN where she was rejected by a zoo because a small piece of her ear is missing, a birth defect. She would have been killed if not for Indigo Mountain. Can you imagine being rejected for a birth defect? Moto and Satōnk are the other two who have become good friends and room-mates. They will be 14 this year. They came to Indigo Mountain around 2003 after they simply refused to leave their habitat to go with their “trainer” to a lecture. Their stubbornness would have been a death sentence without Indigo Mountain Nature Center.

The bears are in torpor this time of year, not quite a full-blown hibernation. The body slows down, temperature goes down to about 88°, respirations and heart rate decrease along with their cognitions. This is when they live on brown fat (the good fat). Bears give birth and nurture their young in the torpor state. Sue reminds me they can still wake and chase. She shared how last year when Beth Gentry, General Manager of Bon Appetit was their Champion for Indy Give! Campaign, a cakewalk was the fundraiser and Isabel O’Dell, Lead Baker at Bon Appetit, baked

a very special cake for the bears with bear-diet-friendly ingredients. The cake was brought out to them and they ALL woke up for a piece of Isabell’s award winning cake. They know a good thing when they smell it! Seriously, if you’d ever have a taste of Isabell’s bakery, you would wake for it as well.

Wascina, a wolf-dog who came from a rescue in Texas, is quite remarkable. Wascina means “lard” (they did not name her; all named animals retain their names upon arrival and those without names are given a name). Wascina has a form of hereditary glaucoma, which increases pressure behind their eyes. Her eyes were removed in 2006 to prevent them from bursting inside her head. She has adapted well. Sue and Carol used various scents to help Wascina acclimate to a sightless existence. She came out to smell us.

We met the Arctic Wolf-Dog, Tok (means “center of peace”). He is high-content wolf and low content Great Pyrenees with big snow paws. He came from IN, was for sale at a flea market, but rescued by Sue and Carol. Tok had a cancerous tumor on his front leg which was removed this past summer. Sue and Carol watch him carefully as he adjusts to being a tripod. Tok has developed his own game with the many crows in the area — he baits them with his dinner and as they approach, he reclaims his meal. How is that for rehabilitation after losing a leg?

While Tok came to them in 2003, it was about a year later that Tok’s parents took up residence at Indigo Mountain. The breeder had finally decided to stop breeding and asked Sue and Carol for help. They took Ahkia and Mofassa, then placed the other 13 wolf-dogs. Sue and Carol must have made a good impression for this breeder to reach out for their help. This is another example of their understanding, acceptance, and wisdom.

We met a happy pair of Coy-Dogs, Maya (female) and Tucson (male). Maya is mixed with Husky and German Shepard. She was dumped at the Table Mountain Shelter in Golden, CO. Probably the result of a frustrated owner who cannot possibly meet the needs of a high-content wolf-dog and finally gave up trying. Tucson came from Pikes Peak Humane Society. Carol and Sue watched them interact, noticed their body language suggesting they could be good friends. Once there was consistency in this communication, they were paired. By the way, the residents at Indigo Mountain have been altered to prevent further breeding, which can also reduce potential aggression.

We were very impressed with how carefully and consistently Carol and Sue observe the non-verbal communications to pair what might be considered unlikely pairings. Heart is a New Fundland and Wahya is a 90% wolf-dog, whose owner beat him in hopes of getting him to fight pit bull dogs. This owner didn’t know that it is not in a wolf’s nature to fight. Their primary instinct is to care for the pack and cooperate within the pack. This poor creature was beaten, never able to understand why. Heart and Wahya seemed to connect their kindred spirits and have become happy habitat-mates since the pairing.

Indigo Breeze is a female, 62% wolf-dog who is in training to become an Ambassador for Indigo Mountain. Once she is certified, she can go along with Sue and Carol when they give educational presentations to various groups and organizations. Indigo Breeze will help to teach humans about the wolf’s natural instincts, intelligence, and inquisitive nature. Hopefully, more people will become aware there is a difference between owning a pet and honoring



Wascina (left) and Tok

a special creature we can comfortably co-exist within the same environment.

From the time we arrived and then circled back around, we could hear the calling of the Bengal-Bobs. Bengals are Asian Leopard Cats bred with domestic cats. They are gorgeous! However, this is not going to be your typical domestic housecat. Bengals tend to end up in shelters or rescues because that wild leopard part tends to express itself by inappropriate litter box use, noise, aggression, destructiveness, and health issues. They sure can cry out for attention. Denali is quite the climber and enjoyed climbing up the habitat in order to be seen by us. Out of the nine cats, four of them came to us to be petted, scratched and adored. Jasper jumped up on the cat-landing in the corner of the habitat and gave us an example of how one answers nature’s call without a litter box. We all laughed and made a mental note to refrain from putting your back up to the habitat, best to face the felines. These cats will catch chipmunks or birds and bring them to the barn for Sue and Carol, much like domestic cats with outdoor privileges.

We ended our visit indoors where the hedgehogs and sugar gliders are housed. Both are nocturnal species. Some people think they would make great pets. These hedgehogs are terrified of humans and roll into a quivering ball when they spot a human. It can’t be much fun to be someone’s pet that you are terrified of.

The sugar gliders are often given up for adoption shortly after the humans recognize nocturnal means active at night time. What a surprise it has been to realize these tiny little animals come alive at night, have very intense play and make quite the racket when humans are typically sleeping. Carol and Sue have made pouches for these marsupials to sleep in. Yes, they are quite adorable as they snuggle into their pouches. Yet, they continue to have an opposite schedules of humans. Perhaps better to think

twice about this pet if you value sleep time.

Indigo Mountain established a mutually beneficial relationship with Crippen Processing. Carol and Sue bring empty tubs for meat scrap and take away tubs of scrap to feed the residents. (They cannot accept road kill due to potentially spreading chronic wasting disease.) While this helps to feed the animals, the need is enormous.

Please keep in mind; it is quite the task to feed their residents - 150lb of chicken per day in meat alone. The bear go through about 2 tons of food per year, which they buy 1 ton at a time and supplement with fruits

and vegetables. It takes a lot to feed this family!

The next goal is to build another bear habitat. Do you have fence building skills? Do you have spare materials? Do you have time to volunteer? Indigo Mountain Nature Center is a non-profit which partners with many different organizations from all over the world. In fact, they have a greater donor base globally than locally. They welcome your monetary donations. To see a complete grocery list of items they consume on a regu-

lar basis visit their website www.indigomtn.org. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, the application form is also on their website or you can email info@indigomtn.org.

Love, acceptance, understanding, and appreciation are the foundation from which Sue and Carol care for these incredible animals that other humans have failed.

Please take time to visit their website and learn more about this healing sanctuary. Perhaps you will decide to volunteer or make a contribution today.



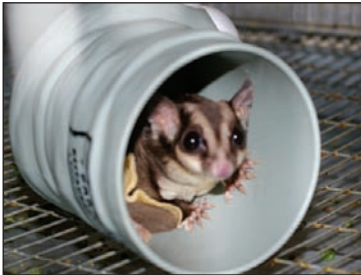
Bengal-Bob comes to meet us.



Ahwan-Hee comes out of torpor for cake



Isabell bakes bear-diet-friendly-award winning cake



Sugar gliders are cute but also nocturnal.

The Felton Memorial

by Flip Boettcher

On Thursday, November 1, the community came together to honor Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire Chief Don Felton who died suddenly on Saturday, October 27 at his desk at the fire station.

Felton, 71 years old and born in Texas in 1941, served in the Marines from 1960 – 1964. Felton moved to Colorado Springs from California in 1975, and spent 28 years in the Colorado Army National Guard and retired as a Special Forces Chief Warrant Officer 3 receiving many commendations including the Legion of Merit Award.

Felton and his wife Barbara of 49 years, moved to the 4-Mile 2600 subdivision east of Guffey in 1986.

Felton has been with the SPCFPD fire department the past six years as an Emergency Medical Technician and firefighter, the last two years as deputy fire chief before becoming chief on April 1, 2012.

Felton's memorial service will long be remembered in Guffey. At least 220 people attended the memorial and jammed into the fire station bay and over flowed out into the parking area.

There were representatives from all over the state. Paul Cooke, Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, Chiefs Jerry Rhodes, Ken Rice and Bob Brown of the Colorado Fallen firefighter's Foundation, Assistant Chief Joe Burgett of the Platte Canyon Fire District who performed the Bell Ceremony as well as the following fire districts were represented - Arapahoe County-Cunningham Fire rescue, Black Hawk, Colorado Springs, Elk Creek, Florissant, Four Mile, Hartsel, Hudson, Lake Dillon, Lake George, Netco, South Park, Platte Canyon, Rifle, and Tri-Lakes-Monument. The Park County Sheriff's Office was represented by Sheriff Fred Wegener and Under Sheriff Monte Gore. Retired Master Sergeant Garry Melchi and about thirty of Felton's army buddies were present as well as Captain John Bartlett representing VFW Post 11411 in Lake George.

After the posting of the colors by the Ft. Carson Honor Guard, the casket was brought in. When Rev. Bill Harper, SPCFPD Chaplain finished his opening remarks, Cooke read a letter from Governor Hickenlooper. Hickenlooper apologized for not being able to attend the memorial, but thanked and praised Felton for his years of service to his

country, state and community.

During the services, many of Felton's army buddies gave vignettes about Felton's army days and several emails and letters were read by Melchi from members who could not attend the memorial.

Several fire department members praised Felton and the Fallen Firefighter Ceremony was given.

After the rest of the services were over, the final call out from the Fairplay dispatch for 901 came over the radio and the bagpiper, Caoimhin Connell, Park County Reserve Deputy, played Amazing Grace. Then taps was played by a solo bugler and a 21-gun salute (seven rifles each firing three times) followed by the chiming of the fire bell by Assistant Chief Burgett – three sets of three tolls each – signaling the final call out.

The Honor Guard retired the flag from the casket and presented it to Felton's widow Barbara. Cooke then gave Barbara a Colorado flag which he said had flown over the capitol the previous day in honor of Felton.

The Honor Guard then retired the casket to another song on the bagpipes to the hearse where it joined the processional of the approximately twenty fire trucks from the fire departments present. People lined the processional route and saluted as Felton passed by. After the services, the community all joined in for a pot-luck. In lieu of flowers or gifts, donations to the SPCFPD are being accepted in Felton's name.



Honor Guard presents flag to Barbara



Chief Don Felton

Search underway for new Guffey fire chief

Left the fire service and miss it?

Here's a chance to get back in a low volume department in the mountains of Colorado. The Guffey fire department is searching for a long term chief for its three station combination department. The department responds to structure fires, wild land fires, and light rescue including an ambulance service. One type 6 engine and crew is available for assignment to state and federal fires.

The Guffey department covers 240 square miles of lightly populated ranch and farm land with an approximate call volume of 70+ calls per year and 25-30 volunteers. The chief's position starts at 36 to 42K annually based on qualifications and matching contributions to the FPPA pension fund. The minimum requirements for the job are Colorado Firefighter 1, Forest Service S130/190, Colorado EMT-B and ICS 100 and 200.

Apply to Search Committee, SPCFPD, PO Box 11, Guffey, CO 80820. Please include job references with your resume. Application deadline is January 15, 2013. Visit www.guffey-fire.net, for more information about the department and how to apply.

Critter Corner

Outdoor and Indoor friends



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

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Int. Color: Black
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Price: \$10,995

2009 Kia Sportage LX V6

Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 2.70L V624V
Transmission: 4-speed automatic
Ext. Color: White
Int. Color: Beige
Mileage: 39,087
Price: \$15,995



2005 Lexus RX 330

Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 3.30L V624V
Transmission: 5-speed automatic
Ext. Color: Savannah
Int. Color: Ivory
Mileage: 118,052
Price: \$16,495

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited 4X4

Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.70L V816V
Transmission: 5-speed multi-speed automatic
Ext. Color: Brilliant Black
Int. Color: Medium Slate Gray
Mileage: 68,367
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The Winter Child

by Danielle Dellinger

No one knew of his origin. He was a being unlike any other, but only few had seen him in the mountainous regions of Colorado, particularly around the parts of Guffey. Those who had seen him, described him as a young boy eight years of age with golden blond hair with black streaks. His expression always appeared vacant, though it held a peaceful quality. He wore no clothes except for ragged, black jean shorts, revealing skin that looked icy and drained of all color. Some confused him with Jack Frost, but they were wrong. He was only known to the world as the Winter Child. No, this child’s reason for existence was a mystery, or at least it used to be until now. He walked amongst the wildlife, their gaze transfixed on him. A few walked aimlessly after him, seemingly pulled by an invisible force that he emitted, but they didn’t follow him for long.

However, the Rocky Mountain wapiti, or Rocky Mountain elk, seemed particularly taken with him, and he, them. These tough and stoic creatures showed an odd gentleness and protectiveness toward the boy. He had been around when the Shawnee and Cree word “waapiti” was created to name the large creatures, meaning “white rump.” The English dropped the second “a” for reasons of their own. Unbeknownst to anyone, the Winter Child had given the first pair of elk their white rumps, though evolution had turned them beige. It had been an accident, of course, as these things usually are. He had been walking with them when the world was still fresh and new. But then he saw a predator out of the corner of his eye. The predator began to stalk toward them and he slapped the elks’ rumps to get them to run. However, that brief touch created the white patch around their tails. It was then that he discovered that he could turn things white, if he so desired, with a simple touch. Not icy. Not snowy. White. Leaching away whatever color was there before. He saved the elks’ lives that day, and it could explain their attraction to him in the present. He suddenly became their protector.

At this moment he accompanied the local bachelor herd as they moved through the newly-fallen snow of mid-winter. The air felt as still as the air on the summit of Pikes Peak. He rode the biggest bull of the herd through the forest, his pale skin clashing with its light tan fur. He tangled his small fingers into the bull’s thick mane, looking around as the sun began to rise. The bull stopped and stretched his neck out low, letting out his eerie, high-pitched bugle. The boy smiled as the sound filled his ears and made them ring like vibrating bells. The bull inhaled deeply and he made his call again, though for a shorter length of time. Their bugling was one of the many reasons why he loved elk. The bull stopped his call and lifted his head, looking back at the boy with trusting eyes of dark brown. The boy went to pet the bridge of his nose, but something caught the bull’s attention and he quickly turned his head forward, ears erect. The boy followed the bull elk’s gaze and saw a human boy around his size and age staring at them with a dazed expression.

The boy hadn’t realized that they were at where the forest met human property. He could hear a female voice calling out something. Suddenly a woman appeared on the deck, her voice jumping an octave when she saw that her son was face to face with a bull elk. She was unable to see the boy on its back. The boy watched as the woman came running toward them, which wasn’t the smartest idea and one of the more dangerous things she could have done, but she was doing everything she could to scare away the elk from her offspring. It worked. The bull turned and started trotting away and the boy was forced to look over his shoulder at the two humans as the woman dropped to her knees by her son and wrapped her arms tightly around him.

The bull elk stopped once they were at a safe distance and mostly camouflaged by aspen trees. He turned, and together, he and the boy looked back through the trees at the small figures as they started toward the house. When the elk couldn’t see them anymore, he looked back at the boy who rode him. The boy looked at him an intrigued look in his eyes. The boy wasn’t sure if he was glad the human saw him. He’d always been curious about humans, though more so than the elk beneath him. The boy reached out and rubbed the elk between his antlers, causing him to make low grunting noises. They moved on after a few minutes.

The next day the duo returned to the spot where they’d met the humans. The boy slid from the elk’s back and boldly walked to the house and onto the deck. He peered in at the human boy and his mother as they moved about the kitchen, making breakfast together. He wondered what it was like to do such a thing with another being. He didn’t need to eat and the elk’s food didn’t need any special preparation. The woman said something and her boy went darting out of sight. The boy on the deck tried to see where he went, following the deck around to the side of the house. There was a smaller window and he cleared the dirt away, looking in. He guessed this was where the boy spent his nights. He watched as the human child picked up objects off the ground and put them away in certain places. This was a very curious action; the boy saw no point to it. He mused as to why the child did this when he realized the human boy had spotted him and was staring with wide eyes.

The two stared at each other for a long while before the boy decided to step away from the window and return to the elk. He was halfway across the yard when he heard the door that let out onto the deck open behind him. He glanced over his shoulder to see the human child standing there in the snow, wearing slippers and plaid pajamas. The human boy then came charging off of the deck and the other boy turned to face him. The human stopped a few feet away from him and went back to staring.

“I’m Jamison,” the human boy finally said in a prepubescent voice.

The other boy winced inwardly at the grating sound the human’s voice caused in his ears. This high voice wasn’t beautiful like the high voice of the elk when he bugled. He didn’t say anything, only gave a slight nod. He heard his elk friend getting restless behind him, and watched as Jamison looked toward the huge creature. Jamison took a few steps in the direction of the elk, but the Winter Child stepped in front of him to block his path, giving a slight shake of his head. Jamison pouted, peering around him to look at the elk. Before anyone could do anything else, the woman’s voice cut across the yard in a worried tone.

“Jamison! Jamison!” she called. “Get back here right now! That’s a wild animal!” “But mom, he looks friendly!” Jamison called back, glancing to her while pointing to the elk.

The Winter Child put his hands on Jamison’s shoulders and tried to turn him toward the woman, who was now making a racket. Humans easily got on his nerves with their

constant noise, so he wanted this interaction to be done.

“Don’t push me!” whined Jamison, wriggling from the Winter Child’s grasp and dodging to the side a few steps. “I want to see the elk!” He then attempted to go toward the animal

again while his mother protested loudly and started running toward him to stop him.

The elk’s ears flicked back, giving him a fierce look. The boy looked to his animal friend and motioned for him to go, the elk happily obliging.

“Wait!” called Jamison. “Wait!” His mother reached him and picked him up, scolding him loudly and harshly. Tears sprung forth and his lip wobbled as he stared at the backside of the retreating elk.

Once Jamison and the mother were safely inside, the boy turned and followed after the elk, catching up to him quickly since the bull had stopped to wait for him behind a pine tree. He climbed up onto the animal’s back and the elk looked back at him, displeased. The boy smirked and shrugged. The elk snorted and started walking away to rejoin the rest of the bulls in the valley behind the humans’ house. As the elk walked, the boy thought about why Jamison intrigued him so much. Maybe it was because the human boy could see him. It wasn’t often that he was seen by humans. He guessed that the boy just wanted a ride on his elk friend. That would never happen. It was far too risky for the elk and Jamison’s safety. His job was first and foremost to protect the elk, than any human who came too close. He supposed he could do something for Jamison to satisfy his curiosity.

A couple nights later, the Winter Child returned to Jamison’s house after giving the humans space to let them regain their calm. He stood outside of Jamison’s window and

looked at the darkened room with the glow of a small nightlight in the corner as the only source of light. There were many things related to elk scattered around Jamison’s room. It made him smile a little. It felt good to him to show emotion. The Winter Child stepped through the wall into Jamison’s room like a ghost. The boy could barely be seen underneath the mound of blankets on the bed against the far wall. He’d barely taken three steps toward Jamison when he bolted upright and stared at the Winter Child with wide eyes. The boy offered a small smile to Jamison to let him know he meant no harm. He planned to share with Jamison his memories of being with the bachelor herd of elk.

He sat beside Jamison on the bed and put both hands to his temples. Jamison’s eyes slowly closed as the Winter Child showed him the herd of bulls running through the snow and some of them stopping to play. The scene changed to a first-hand view of what it was like to be the Winter Child riding atop his elk friend. He watched as Jamison grinned at the image. The next image was of two bulls tussling over a harem of females. The boy then shared with Jamison the special moment of an elk calf taking its first shaky steps in the deep green grass of a meadow through the eyes of its mother. After all, the boy only existed in winter, but he was able to tap into the memories of all the elk to catch up on their lives. Several images then flicked by of multiple elk watching various humans with curiosity. Lastly, he showed a bird’s eye view of an extremely large herd of elk walking across a snowy meadow into a grove of trees.

The Winter Child drew back his hands from Jamison’s temples, and while the human boy still had his eyes closed, he place a small piece of an antler into his hands. Then he got up and started to leave, but before he did, he noticed a white streak of hair appearing near Jamison’s temple where his hand had been. This was an interesting new development. Maybe the boy had put too much of himself into Jamison. However, now was not the time to linger. He left in the same fashion he’d entered, returning to the bull elk who was awaiting his arrival with the other bulls. He reached his friend and petted his neck, glancing back at Jamison’s window where he could see the human boy pressing his face against the glass and fogging it with his hot breath. The boy climbed up onto large creature’s back and gave a slight nod to Jamison before the elk turned and started away, the other bulls following him.

The two boys never crossed paths again because Jamison and his family moved out of the area shortly after that. Jamison’s mother was concerned about the story her son told her about a boy visiting him in the middle of the night and showing him memories of his time spent with elk, along with the sudden appearance of the streak of white hair. Who could blame her for her decision to move?

Yes, the Winter Child is unlike any other being, and lucky enough to ride on the back of an elk.

GMOs 101

by Carol Grieve`

I have been a Life Coach for about 12 years, assisting families and individuals to create more fulfilling lives. I have a private coaching practice for those who want individual assistance in health and wellness. About 3 years ago, I became increasingly aware that the quality of our food supply was going downhill fast. Since I have always been a “foodie” this was very disturbing to me. I got together with three other like-minded “foodie” friends and we started a Facebook Page called Food Integrity Now.

We created a live talk radio show to talk about food with some of the best experts in the world. We now have an internet talk radio show that reaches thousands and assists in educating people on the most current food issues threatening our precious food supply. We have interviewed the experts on subjects like Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), organics, water, farming, growing your own food, geoengineering, holistic cancer cures, sustainability, and more. We have over 80 archived shows on our site that you can download at your leisure. We continue to research these topics to be as current as possible with what is happening with our food supply. Our website is www.foodintegritynow.org.

I really feel it is a matter of life and death to educate ourselves as to what we are eating. It is surprising that some people are not familiar with GMOs - considering 80%-90% of all the food in our grocery stores contains GMOs. Seems to me that we ought to learn what this really means.

GMO’s are plants or animals created through the gene splicing techniques of biotechnology (also called genetic engineering, or GE). This experimental technology merges DNA from different species, creating unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial, and viral genes that cannot occur in nature or in traditional crossbreeding. Virtually all commercial GMOs are engineered to withstand direct application of herbicide and/or to produce an insecticide. What this means is that many of the genetically engineered plants produce their own pesticide. So when you eat these foods, that pesticide gets into your body.

It’s important to know that most developed nations do not consider GMOs safe. There are significant restrictions or outright bans on the production/sale of GMOs in nearly 50 countries, including all of the countries in the European Union, Australia, and Japan. The U.S. government has approved GMOs based on studies conducted by the same corporations that created them and profit from their sale. These same corporations told us that Agent Orange and DDT were safe!

Let’s get back to the fact that 80%-90% of food in our grocery stores is genetically

engineered. The U.S. has no laws requiring the labeling of GMOs, despite the fact that most Americans want labeling. The biotech corporations have spent millions fighting the labeling issue as they know once their products are labeled many consumers will stop buying their products.

Here is a list of the most common crops that are High-Risk:

- Alfalfa (first planting 2011)
- Canola (approx. 90% of U.S. crop)
- Corn (approx. 88% of U.S. crop in 2011)
- Cotton (approx. 90% of U.S. crop in 2011)
- Papaya (most of Hawaiian crop)
- Soy (approx. 94% of U.S. crop in 2011)
- Sugar Beets (approx. 95% of U.S. crop in 2010)
- Zucchini and Yellow Summer Squash (approx. 25,000 acres)

ALSO high-risk: animal products (milk, meat, eggs, honey, etc.) because of contamination in feed.

When you start learning to read labels, you will find that almost all processed foods contain GMOs. Please see the complete list below. This list may seem somewhat overwhelming, but it is important to get the facts.

Now, given all of this information you may be wondering why you should care. Here is what we do know:

- BT Corns genetically engineered to produce its own pesticide, a toxin called Bacillus thuringiensis or Bt, is designed to attack a corn pest called the corn rootworm. Rats fed this corn developed several reactions, including those typically found with allergies in response to infections, toxins and various diseases including cancer (increased lymphocytes and white blood cells), and in the presence of anemia (decreased reticulocyte count) and blood pressure problems (decreased kidney weights). There were also increased blood sugar levels, kidney inflammation, liver and kidney lesions, and other changes.
- In a study conducted last year in France, Gilles-Eric Seralini of the University of Caen said rats fed on a diet containing NK603 - a seed variety made tolerant to dousings of Roundup (weed killer) - or given water containing Roundup at levels permitted in the U.S. died earlier than those on a standard diet. The animals on the GM diet suffered mammary tumors, as well as severe liver and kidney damage. The researchers said 50% of males and 70% of females died prematurely, compared with only 30% and 20% in the control group. In essence, we are the human guinea pigs!
- Children face the greatest risk from the



Carol Grieve`

potential dangers of genetically modified (GM) foods because their bodies develop at a fast pace. That is why independent scientists used young adolescent rats in their GM feeding studies. The rats showed significant health damage after only 10 days, including damaged immune systems and digestive function, smaller brains, livers, and testicles, partial atrophy of the liver, and potentially pre-cancerous cell growth in the intestines.

There is a wonderful movie called “Genetic Roulette” which you can watch online that goes into further detail on the dangers of genetically engineered foods.

You may be wondering what am I going to eat? Your best bet is to buy organic whenever possible. Since most processed food contain many GMOs, buy whole foods like fruit and vegetables, organic chicken and grass-fed beef. If you don’t know how to cook, learn. Grow your own food either indoors, in a greenhouse or in an outdoor garden. Support your local farmer’s markets and natural grocery stores or join a CSA (community supported agriculture) which delivers you fresh fruits and vegetables when in season. Most importantly, educate yourself about the food you eat and the food you feed your family. There is a reason why childhood allergies and Type II Diabetes are at epidemic proportions.

I constantly hear, “I cannot afford organics.” My response to this is that it is a matter of priority. We have become a society that is so enamored by electronics, video games and other ways to keep our children entertained that we have forgotten what is really important. There is nothing more important than what we put into our bodies. It’s about quality of life! For some, it may be a gradual shift to organics and for others it may be a matter of life and death. In my opinion, all the pesticide-laden foods and GMOs are creating not only an epidemic of health problems, but emotional and mental problems as well.

So folks, you get to chose. You may not get to see the GMO labels on foods yet, but we are working on that. You now know how to read labels and it is up to you to decide what you want to put in your body and what you want to feed your family. I think the choice is clear.

If you have any questions or have a topic you would like discussed in this column, feel free to email me at carol@foodintegritynow.org.

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Foods that contain GMO's

Aspartame (also called AminoSweet®, NutraSweet®, Equal Spoonful®, Candarel®, BeneVia®, E951)	corn sugar	glycerides	leucine	oleic acid	sugar)
baking powder	corn syrup	glycerol	lysine	Phenylalanine	tamari
canola oil (rapeseed oil)	cornstarch	glycerol monooleate	malitol	phytic acid	tempeh
caramel color	cottonseed oil	glycine	malt	protein isolate	teriyaki marinades
cellulose	cyclodextrin	hemicellulose	malt syrup	shoyu	textured vegetable protein
citric acid	cystein	high fructose corn syrup (HFCS)	malt extract	sorbitol	threonine
cobalamin (Vitamin B12)	dextrin	hydrogenated starch	maltodextrin	soy flour	tocopherols (vitamin E)
colorose	dextrose	diacetyl	maltose	soy isolates	tofu
condensed milk	erythritol	hydrolyzed vegetable protein	mannitol	soy lecithin	trehalose
confectioners sugar	Equal	inositol	methylcellulose	soy milk	triglyceride
corn flour	food starch	inverse syrup	milk powder	soy oil	vegetable fat
corn masa	fructose (any form)	inversol	milo starch	soy protein	vegetable oil
corn meal	glucose	invert sugar	modified food starch	soy protein isolate	vitamin B12
corn oil	glutamate	isoflavones	modified starch	soy sauce	vitamin E
	glutamic acid	lactic acid	mono and diglycerides	starch	whey
		lecithin	monosodium glutamate (MSG)	stearic acid	whey powder
			Nutrasweet	sugar (unless specified as cane	xanthan gum

Address signs

by Flip Boettcher

photo by Flip Boettcher

Have you ever wondered what happens after someone in Park County calls 911 in the middle of the night for an emergency?

The Sherriif’s dispatcher in Fairplay pages out the appropriate fire district, relays the emergency information to that district and usually gives a house number and street name for the location of the emergency, according to Larry LePage, major and acting fire chief of the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District.

As responding emergency personnel race through the night, said LePage, the tension is high as the scene is approached and everyone anxiously looks out trying to find a driveway marker or address of the destination.

“If the address numbers are old, faded into the background of a gatepost, or missing entirely, it

can delay the arrival by precious minutes,” said LePage. Every second counts in an emergency.

LePage suggests every homeowner look at where their driveway meets the road on a dark night. Can you see the numbers reflected in your flashlight?

While you are very familiar with your own driveway day or night, try to imagine emergency personnel responding to your house for an emergency and what they might see driving by at 30 mph. Are the numbers reflective? Are they three to four inches high? Are they visible from the road in both directions?

According to Doug Schellenger, president of the SPCFPD auxiliary, the auxiliary will make any homeowner a low cost, reflective address number sign. The price for a one sided sign is \$15.00 and the price for a two



Address sign with the large numbers reflecting in the camera’s flash on a gate in the guffey area.

sided sign is \$20.00, and the signs can be either vertical or horizontal said Schellenger. “Remember,” added LePage, “A visible sign will save us a lot of stress and may even save your life, a loved one’s life or your home.”

Contact Schellenger to find out more about the address signs and the auxiliary: 719-479-2282 or the Guffey fire station: 719-689-9479.

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Water Rights in Colorado

Submitted by CUSP

This is the first in a series of monthly articles by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) to provide information about issues that concern us all. CUSP is a watershed protection nonprofit working to protect the water quality and ecologic health of the Upper South Platte Watershed through the cooperative efforts of watershed stakeholders, with emphasis on community values and economic sustainability. You can find out more about the work we do in the community at www.upperouthplatte.org.

Colorado has a "water rights," or private property approach to managing our limited water resources. In our state, the State Engineer's Office is the delegated agency that oversees the administration and control of water, with oversight from the Colorado Water Courts. As the drought has continued to reduce available water supplies, people are learning, sometimes in painful ways, about our water rights system! So, for those who don't bathe in the nuances of water law, here's a brief primer.

Water is addressed in our State's Constitution. It says, "The water of every natural stream, not heretofore appropriated, within the state of Colorado, is hereby declared to be the property of the public, and the same is dedicated to the use of the people of the state, subject to appropriation as hereinafter provided."

Appropriation is a process, through the State's Water Court, of claiming a water right by demonstrating that you have put water to beneficial use. Those with the oldest "decree," or court documentation of their ownership of a water right, have the highest priority in having water delivered to their point of diversion. When a senior water rights holder isn't getting enough water to their diversion, they contact the State Engineer's Office, which puts "a call" on the river. A call requires water rights holders with junior water rights to shut off their diversion and let the water continue downstream for the use of the more senior water rights holders.

When no senior rights holders are having trouble getting water, and so no call is placed on the river (such as during spring runoff), the water lingo says that there is a "free river." That means someone who does not have a decreed water right could divert water from the river to put it to beneficial use, and thus begin the process of securing a new water right. In the South Platte and Arkansas drainages, this essentially means there is extremely limited opportunity to acquire a new water right, because these two rivers are highly over-appropriated, and free river is a fairly rare event.

Water rights apply not only to taking water out of the river, but also apply to things like saving rainwater in a rain barrel, or creating storage, such as a pond. In the last year, many people in our area with ponds were required to breach and drain them because they did not have a water right to store the water.

Groundwater is also managed under Colorado water laws. Prior to 1972, property owners could drill a well without a permit, and if you own a home or business with a pre-1972 well, you are said to have an exempt well. All wells after 1972 require a permit. For homes, the permits are for either a "household" well or a "domestic well." If you have less than 35 acres, your well will be a household well, which means you can only use water inside the house; you may not water a lawn or garden, wash your car, irrigate trees or shrubs, or provide water to horses or other livestock. A domestic well owner may do these things, though the permit states how much area may be irrigated.

The drought has caused hardship, as more and more people depend on our limited water supplies. Last year, few ranchers with irrigation rights (many with water court decrees dating back to the late 1860s and 1870s) in our area were able to irrigate at all, or were only able to irrigate for a very short window of time in April, because the most senior water rights in the South Platte and Arkansas drainages are held by metropolitan municipalities and agricultural producers on the eastern plains, who began placing "calls" on the river by mid-April. Also, during the

drought many well owners in the region have had their wells run dry because the water table has dropped below the level required for their pump to run.

Businesses may have either an exempt commercial well permit (which

does require the business to install a meter and make records available upon request to the State), or a nonexempt well, which requires them to have an augmentation plan or augmentation water, and this needs to be approved by water court. Examples of businesses that need augmentation water include hotels and lodges, stables and kennels, or any business that requires outside use of water. Property owners who have household wells, but used them for watering horses or livestock, may also use augmentation water in order to allow them to continue watering their animals, and pond owners could use augmentation in order to not have to breach their ponds. Augmentation is essentially a way to provide senior water rights holders with the water they are calling for from an alternate source. Thanks to the Headwaters Authority of the South Platte (<http://haspwater.com>), a partnership between the Center of Colorado Water Conservancy District and the Upper South Platte Water Conservancy District, augmentation water is available to purchase at fairly reasonable rates within the Upper South Platte Watershed for those who need it.

The current drought situation is not expected to improve any time soon. Water usage and storage is a legal issue that is getting more attention than ever before throughout the State and in our watershed. If you have questions on water rights, visit <http://water.state.co.us>.

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Year to date residential sales in Teller County have jumped considerably from 2011 - not only the number of sales for many parts of the county but also the median sales price. Woodland Park, for example, with the highest number of sales annually compared to Divide, Florissant, Lake George and Cripple Creek/Victor, is up 11%. For quick statistics on all areas of the county, please see my website at www.LenoreHotchkiss.com.

I've been fortunate to broker a large number of properties this year, from \$865,000 to under \$200,000 - with more on the way. I've had an increase in sales with off-the-grid homes, ranches, second homes and land.

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Help older parents avoid financial “scams”

Here’s a disturbing statistic: One out of every five Americans over the age of 65 has been victimized by a financial scheme, according to the Investor Protection Trust, a nonprofit organization devoted to investor education. If your parents are in this age group, should you be concerned? Can you help them avoid being “scammed” so that they maintain control over their finances?

The answer to the first question is “yes” — you should be concerned. Of course, as the numbers above show, most aging Americans are not being swindled, which suggests they can take care of themselves quite well. Still, it’s no secret that many fraud schemes target seniors because of their concentrated wealth and in many cases, trusting nature. As much as you’d like to think otherwise, your parents could be susceptible to rip-off artists.

Fortunately, in regard to the second question above, you can indeed take steps to help prevent your parents from being fleeced. Here are a few suggestions:

- Observe their behavior. If you live close to your parents, listen closely to any new friends, investment deals or sweepstakes they mention during your normal interactions. If you’re in a different city, try to stay abreast of your parents’ behavior by communicating with them frequently and by checking in with other family members or friends who have occasion to see your parents.
- Urge them to watch out for suspicious e-mails. You’ve probably seen them — the e-mails offering to “reward” you with huge amounts of money if you will only contact such-and-such from a distant country and then put up a “small” sum to initiate some ill-defined transaction. You probably “spam” these without a moment’s thought — and you should urge your parents to do the same. Remind them any

offer that sounds “too good to be true” is, without question, neither “good” nor “true.”

- Encourage them to further their financial education. Law enforcement agencies, health care professionals and reputable financial services providers all offer personal financial management programs designed specifically for seniors. Look for these types of programs in your area, encourage your parents to attend — and even consider going with them.
- Become familiar with their financial situation. Having a serious discussion with your parents about their finances may not be easy — but it’s important. The more you know about their investments, retirement accounts and estate plans, the better prepared you’ll be to respond helpfully if they mention an action they’re considering taking that, to you, just doesn’t sound appropriate.

• Suggest professional help. If your parents are already working with a qualified financial professional, they’re probably less likely to be victimized by fraud than if they were managing their finances on their own. And it’s a good idea for you to know their financial advisor and for him or her to know you, as you may well be involved in your parents’ legacy planning. But if your parents don’t already have a financial advisor, you may want to recommend one to them, particularly if it’s someone you already know and trust.

It’s entirely possible that your parents won’t need any assistance in avoiding financial scams. But, just in case, be prepared to act on the above suggestions. Your intervention could help preserve your parent’s financial independence.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Tracy E Barber IV, AAMS, your Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Clothes Closet looking for home

Pastor Trish Sinclair of Living Streams Church has a vision of a clothes closet to serve the underprivileged in Teller County. She has been collecting clothes for over two years and has received many contributions of clothes during the holidays. All clothes have been washed, sewn as needed, and dry-cleaned. Now, all she needs is a location in which to set up the clothes closet.

“We have also had calls from women who worked at the original Clothes Closet and want to volunteer to help at the new Clothes Closet. We have so many beautiful clothes for adults and children to give away,” says Pastor Trish.

Wendy Omi has been chosen as the Director for the clothes closet. She will manage the shop and the volunteers. Wendy brings over 20 years of experience in various ministries and most recently worked at New Life Church in Colorado Springs. She will contact other ministries and businesses in the area, so that partnerships can begin. Contributions are needed to help pay the



Pastor Trish Sinclair

expenses, a few churches from St. George have offered to be contributors.

“We are not only looking for a building which would be a blessing to the community but also for others to partner with us to make this a true community ministry,” says Pastor Trish. For further information please contact Pastor Trish Sinclair at 719-598-0185.

Christmas potluck

by Flip Boettcher

A holiday crowd of about ninety or so people gathered at the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire station in Guffey on Sunday, December 16 at 4 pm, for the auxiliary sponsored community Christmas potluck.

The Stiletto Sisterz, a local duet composed of Geordi Walston, piano, and Karyn Miller, vocals, entertained the group with Christmas songs until Santa arrived.

Santa arrived on a fire truck with his two elves and a reindeer, played by Ryan, Emily and Jessica Mason, and a “HO, HO, HO”. Santa gave out several toys to each boy and girl there as part of the Toys-for-Tots program.

Santa made sure that everyone got to sit on his lap including acting fire Chief Gene Stanley. Santa gave out unmarked, randomly selected sealed envelopes to all the firefighters, auxiliary members and board of director’s members. The envelopes had gift cards and certificates in them from various businesses including Domino’s Pizza, Village Inn restaurant, Chili’s restaurant, a Royal Gorge raft trip and even a Denver Nuggets t-shirt signed by all the players, to name a few.

Many thanks are given to all the businesses



Santa listens to everyone’s wishes

for their donations, which were arranged for by board of director and firefighter Harry Gintzer and auxiliary president Doug Schellenger.

Schellenger asked auxiliary secretary Susan Geiger to email out a huge “THANK YOU!” to one and all. Many thanks to everyone, “If I try to name you all, I’ll miss someone, so just know that without you, we couldn’t have done it”, said Geiger.

Sam Calanni, chairman of the board of directors, said it looked like a good time was had by all.



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Sweetheart Ball - Social event and fund raiser for Help the Needy

by Kathy Hansen

Are you ready for the signature social event of 2013? The annual Sweetheart Ball, a fundraiser for Help the Needy, will be held Saturday, Feb 9th at Shining Mountain Golf Club. Cocktails begin at 5pm, followed by a gourmet meal provided by Swiss Chalet. Live music by the John Cary Band begins at 8pm. Teresa Lee Photography will be on site to catch spontaneous moments on film. Which of the auction items will most interest you? Will it be a gift certificate to a major restaurant, a work of art, or perhaps the live llama?

Help the Needy (HTN) is a non-profit

serving Teller County for about 30 years. This faith based organization believes in providing a “hand up” instead of a hand out. They understand unforeseen circumstances like medical conditions, job loss/layoff, or a number of other events can throw a family spinning into uncertainty of how their basic needs can be met. It can be very difficult for a person or family in need to be able to ask for assistance.

The case workers at HTN help to make it easier. One of 15 case workers takes time to get to know each client and together, a “Get Well Plan” is created. They may need trans-

portation or a fuel voucher to get to a medical appointment. Perhaps they are in need of dental care and cannot afford a dentist. Basic needs can include help learning where the food pantries are or help with a utility bill. HTN can assist with firewood and is also an Energy Outreach Colorado provider. The recently unemployed may need a voucher for clothing to get to a job interview. They may need to learn how to use a computer or sharpen outdated computer skills. Maybe help crafting that first resume or revitalizing an existing one is needed. Perhaps there is a need for a personalized budget class to

adjust to a different income.

If the folks at HTN are unable to help you directly they will be able to provide referrals to other agencies. Some of their partnering agencies include: Department of Social Services, Aspen Mine Center, and Community Partnership.

HTN helped over 300 families in 2012. They need your donations, be it monetary or your time, as HTN has over 150 volunteers, 35 alone for their firewood program.

For more information on how to make a donation, volunteer, or find out more about those auction items, please call 686-7273.

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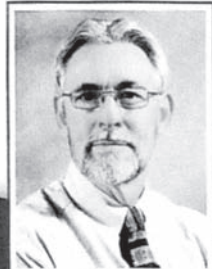
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Fly fishing: Not just a three season sport

by Robert Younghanz, “The Bug Guy”

When most of us think of fishing in Colorado during the winter, visions of an angler sitting atop a five gallon bucket on a windblown frozen lake, looking down a hole in the ice is often the first thing that pops into our minds. Admittedly, over the last 20 years I have spent my fair share of days enduring bone chilling temperatures, freezing toes and fingers and teetering on the edge of hypothermia in the hopes of horsing a trophy trout up on to the ice. Taking nothing away from ice fishing, as The Bug Guy I am necessarily deeply rooted both locally and nationally in the world of fly fishing. It is for this reason, that I realize how fortunate we are here in Colorado as fly fishers to have two essential benefits that that enable fly fishing to not be relegated exclusively to a three season sport but rather a pursuit (or perhaps more accurately an addiction) that can be realized even on the coldest of winter days. Unlike many states Colorado does not have a fishing “season”. If one is intrepid enough to brave the elements then he or she will be rewarded with fishing access to virtually every major river in Colorado even in the dead of winter. One may ask, “Even with a year around fishing season, how is it possible to fish on a frozen river?” This brings us to our second advantage which is tailwaters and more specifically, (for good or for bad) bottom release dams. The water flows that are released from below all of our dams in Colorado ensure that even on the coldest of winter days, there will be open water to fish.

While landing a trout on the fly in January can indeed be rewarding, here are 10 tips to keep in mind that will make your experience enjoyable, productive and safe during the

winter months.

1. Don't fly fish alone. Fishing rivers in the spring, summer and fall have their own set of inherent dangers which are multiplied exponentially in the winter. So always bring a buddy to the river even if they are smarter than you and refuse to leave the safety of the warm vehicle.
2. It's never worth getting hypothermia or frostbite for a fish. This may sound like I'm stating the obvious but time and again, If there's one thing I've learned over these many years of fishing is that anglers are psychotic and especially fly fishers. We will fish in rain, snow, freezing temperatures, and yes, even lightning. I once kept on fishing while a rather large bull moose was ready to turn me into mulch. But hey, the fishing was fantastic; how could I leave? Taking a constant inventory of your physical wellbeing and conditions while on the water will make your fishing experience both safe and not something you're just hoping to endure.
3. When fishing stay close to your vehicle. Sadly a few years back a fisherman died of hypothermia hiking back to his truck after falling in the frigid water near Rampart Reservoir. The individual was more than forty minutes from his vehicle. Remember: Your car or truck is your safety capsule.
4. Whether searching for that perfect Christmas tree, snowshoeing, back country skiing, hunting or any other winter outdoor activity, living in Colorado requires certain common sense preparations and items that are vital and not exclusive to fly fishing. Always let someone know

where you are going and stick to your game plan. Wear layers, bring your cell phone, hand warmers, sunglasses, sun screen and warm beverages. Obviously with fly fishing, a good pair of waders is essential. Don't forget to check for holes and leaks before hitting the stream.

5. Think small. During winter the aquatic insects that are available for trout to key in on are in what we aquatic entomologists call early instars. In the simplest terms the nymphs and larva that occur in the winter months in rivers are in early stages of development and thus extremely small. Logic dictates that, the fly patterns that we choose to imitate these tiny bugs should be small as well.
6. Think Big. Even in the winter months, trout will take Streamers which are the closest thing a fly fisher will use to a lure, and generally imitate bait fish. While trout primarily eat aquatic insects, stripping a big black Woolly Bugger or a myriad of other streamer patterns through a pool can often produce large trout and big numbers on the right day.
7. One of the big misconceptions as it relates to fly fishing in the winter is that one can only fish sub-surface nymph imitations. The fact is that there are hatches year around on almost all rivers throughout the United States. If air temperatures exceed forty degrees it is often possible to fish adult imitations (dry flies). While your midge hatches will be the most prevalent in the winter keep an eye out for blue winged olive Mayflies and even a tiny black Stonefly called a Capniidae. Some of my best days of dry fly fishing on the South Platte and Arkansas Rivers have been in the middle of the winter.
8. Almost without exception, if you are going to fly fish in the winter, the water is going

to be low and gin clear. Stealth is the key. If possible don't let the fish see you. Trout almost always face up stream but nonetheless be cognizant of your shadow, your fly rod moving back and forth over the water while casting, and your indicator and flies splashing down on to the surface. Remember: if you can see the fish, then fish can see you.

9. Pick your days: A sunny day with no wind on the river can be tee shirt weather. In Pueblo, below the tail water on the Arkansas, the average high temp in the winter months is 50 degrees. In the Eleven Mile Canyon area the average high temp is 41 degrees. By keeping an eye on the weather forecast and choosing to wet a line on nicer days, your fishing experience will be more pleasurable, safe and you will have better odds of catching a hatch.
10. Winter fly fishing is supposed to be fun. If you're not enjoying yourself there's no point in being out there. If you're miserable, hop into your warm car and head home.

Robert Younghanz, a.k.a “The Bug Guy” is a guide and instructor at Angler's Covey Fly shop in Colorado Springs. He will be offering a two part fly fishing Winter Streamside and Lecture class on the South Platte River in 11 mile Canyon on February 16. Also check out Robert's internationally renowned DVD, THE BUG GUY: Entomology For The Fly Fisher. For more information or to contact Robert go to: www.the-bug-guy.com or call 719 313-1910



Robert Younghanz shows his catch

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Wed: 9am Low Impact Exercise
1st & 3rd Fri: Lake George Quilters Square 9:30-1:30pm
4th Fri: 9:15 Friends of the Library - Book Clubs “Tainted Tea” and “Titles” meet afterward.

Help U Club: We have our meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake George Community Center, starting with potluck at noon and our meeting at 1:00 pm. We are all “Good Cooks.” We are seeking new members. This would be a good place for new members to the community to meet people while helping out their community.

TARRYALL ICE FISHING TOURNAMENT - SAVE THE DATE

FEB 2 Sponsored by Chaparral Park General Store 6am-2pm. Door prizes and raffle. Enter online Chaparralparkgeneralstore.com, by mail POB 1052 Conifer, CO 80433, or call 303-838-2959.

WOODLAND PARK

- 12 Indoor Farmer's Market at Ute Cultural Center from 9am-2pm.
- 12 S.T.O.P. Spiritually Take Off Pounds. You can end yo-yo diets, emotional eating; and lighten up your mind, body and soul. FREE workshop introduction from 1-2 pm at Peoples National Bank. For reservations, contact Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director. Phone: 719-687-6823 or go to workshop page IAMPowerPrayer.com.
- 18 Gold Hill's Premiere Wine Tasting Event, “Taste of the Grape” sponsored by Ute Pass-Woodland Park Kiwanis Foundation, 7pm at Shining Mountain Golf Club. Call William 687-9149 for more details.
- 19 S.T.O.P. Spiritually Take Off Pounds. You can end yo-yo diets, emotional eating; and lighten up your mind, body and soul. FREE workshop

introduction from 3-4 pm at Peoples National Bank. For reservations, contact Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director. Phone: 719-687-6823 or go to workshop page IAMPowerPrayer.com.

- 26 Little Chapel in Divide Food Pantry's best fundraiser at Shining Mountain Golf Club from 4pm-7pm, includes dinner, silent auction, and door prizes. For more information or to reserve your table call 322-7610 or visit www.littlechapelfoodpantry.org or email foodpantry@jklint.com
- 27 The 2012 Ute Pass Historical Society's Annual Patron Luncheon at 1 pm at the Ute Pass Cultural Center in Woodland Park. This year's presentation will be given by ThePikes Peak Guy. He will talk about the writing and photographing of his book 365 Days of Pikes Peak; The Journey. Books will be available for purchase and signing for \$25.99. (UPHS patrons receive a 10% discount.) The presentation is open to the public, and will begin at 1:45 pm.

WOODLAND PARK LIBRARY

- 9 Have You or Someone You Love, Been Diagnosed with Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes? Register now for Healthier Living Colorado Diabetes Self-Management class offered by Teller County Public Health in partnership with Community Partnership Family Resource Center. The six week class runs January 9 - February 13, 2013, Wednesdays, from 5:30-8:00 pm at Woodland Park Library, Woodland Park. Topics include: learning healthy eating, monitoring blood sugar, preventing or delaying complications, communicating with your doctor, problem-solving, and goal setting. For more Information contact Jacqueline Davis, RN, MA at TCPH at 719.687.6416. www.tellercountypublichealth.org

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UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS:

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- PARADOX BEER TASTING
- IRISH WHISKEY TASTING
- SCOTCH WHISKEY TASTING

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SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DATES AND TIMES:
WWW.MCGINTYSWOODOVENPUB.COM

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7:00a~2:00p
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