

UTE COUNTRY NEWS

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June 2013

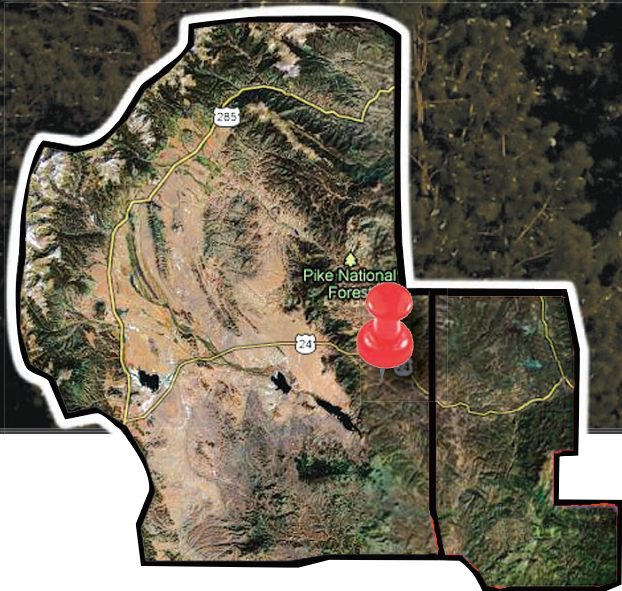
P.O. Box 753, Divide, CO 80814 • 719-686-7393

Vol. 5, No. 6

Welcome to Ute Country

Occasionally I have come across a last patch of snow on top of a mountain in late May or June. There's something very powerful about finding snow in summer.

Andy Goldsworthy



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The month of May gave us moisture and we noticed. So did the earth. My favorite sound is of the ground drinking in the water; listen closely to hear the schlurp up each drop of life sustaining liquid. Take a deep breath and release it slowly; repeat several times. Now, listen closely and you can actually hear the earth as it sucks in each drop of precious moisture. Ahhhhh. Spring graces us with the most comforting of sounds and sweetest of smells. Once we allow our eyes to open we watch the sun call the drop-lets of dew into a cloud during a sunrise. Yes! Spring is here and soon to move into summer.

This issue weaves threads of hope throughout the communities of Teller and Park Counties. We noticed the parallels between nature's springtime emerging along with each writer's pen. See for yourself the welcoming of spring. It is the magnificence of the mountains call that brings us and keeps us here. Take in each of the wonders of spring: smells of sweet blossoms, cast of sweet pea green as the aspen's leaves emerge, and awesome sunsets of pink/orange that humans cannot duplicate. Breathe in the beauty of springtime in the mountains.

Springtime brings us newness in many ways. We are pleased to introduce Julie Faria & Linda Karlin. They are our new dynamic duo of sales west of Woodland Park to Lake George, as well as a trip to Cripple Creek & Victor. Julie & Linda are friendly folks that are happy to talk to you in person to find out how Ute Country News can help get the word out about your business. We will create or modify your ad at no cost to you. Give us a call so Linda & Julie can stop by to help you 719-686-7393.

We are looking forward to interview(s) with local Herbalist, Mari. Keep your eyes peeled (rather, simply close your eyes and take a deep breath, then imagine feeding healthy foods to your body). We look forward to learning about Herbalism and how that differs from western medicine, in July.

Mr. Spaz is happy to have the option of seeking your favorite pics uploaded to our website. If you would like your critter pic printed, please upload to website utecountrynews.com or send hard copy to POB 753 Divide CO 80814.

We welcome your feedback from our website! Please contact us www.utecountrynews.com

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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The Skelton Ranch - a dude ranch not forgotten

by David Martinek

The Skelton Ranch was perhaps one of the first "dude ranches" in Colorado. Located three and a half miles west of Woodland Park, the 400-acre resort ranch operated from 1905 to 1916 and included an additional 1,140 acres that stretched all the way to just north of Divide. The vast acreage was used for grazing cattle and for agriculture. The entire 1540 acres was owned by Judge William T. Skelton and his wife, Lizzie Butler Skelton, along with a partner, Thomas Smiley.

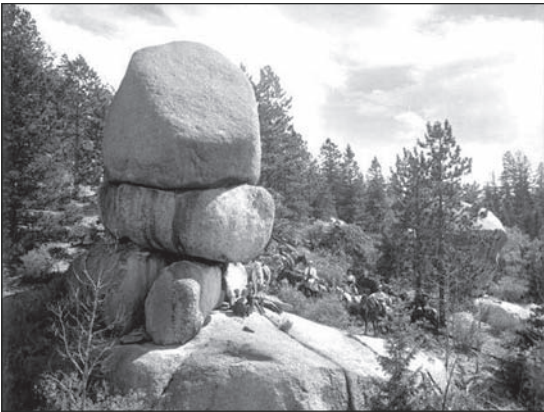
William Skelton was born in Kentucky in 1864 and married Lizzie Butler in 1885. They moved to Denver in 1898, where Skelton was a member of a law firm and briefly held the position of judge. While in Denver, Judge Skelton initially purchased 140 acres near Divide in 1904. Another 400 acres just west of Woodland Park was added shortly afterward. This was followed by the purchase of an additional 1,000 acres north of Divide by Thomas Smiley, Skelton's partner. The couple left Denver in 1906 to reside in Woodland Park at the ranch.

The properties were divided into two parcels – the 400-acre resort ranch and the approximately 1140-acre farming and grazing ranch. The resort ranch was located north of County Road 25, immediately west of Woodland Park and essentially surrounding part of what is now Tranquil Acres.

The farming ranch was located on the east side of County Road 5 about two miles north of Divide. The ranch grazed dairy cattle and goats. They grew several grain crops using dry-land farming techniques (no irrigation). The wheat grew as high a man's chest.

The resort ranch was famous. It had 30 guest log cabins, a 10-room house, a dining hall, a large three-level barn, a 104-foot long chicken house and an assembly hall with two large stone chimneys. The promotional literature claimed that each cabin had indoor plumbing, but the reality was that there were surely several outdoor privies, instead. The ranch could accommodate up to 250 people at \$15 per week. They only accepted "refined people" as guests, according to the literature.

Guests disembarked from the Colorado Midland train in Woodland Park and rode wagons to the ranch. Camping and hiking were common activities, as well as horseback rides throughout the property to such rock formations and sites as Balanced Rock, Bridal Dell, Buena Vista Point, Solomon's



Balanced Rock (then and now): The L.C. McClure photo (left) shows tourists and riders on horseback gathered around Balanced Rock. In the more recent photo (right) historian Eric Schwab stands in front of the precarious rocks to show some perspective. Not much has changed except more tree growth. Bat guano was evident in the recesses of the formation.



Gate, and Temple and Wagon Wheel Passes. In addition, excursion (wagon) trips were taken to the Fossil Beds in Florissant, to Cripple Creek and up to Pike's Peak.

In 1908 a fire nearly destroyed the resort ranch and several of its buildings. According to some, a new two-story dormitory was built in 1910 to replace some of the cabins consumed by the fire. But others say it was never built.



The left photo (by L.C. McClure, 1867-1957) shows riders in front of the Dining Hall at the Skelton Ranch (taken sometime between 1905 and 1916). The photo on right, taken from nearly the same (but closer) perspective, shows only the two remaining concrete chimneys, along with some of the same trees.



Despite the confused history, the resort ranch never operated up to its full potential again after the fire. The entire ranch, including the farming parcel, was finally sold to F. A. Sudholts from St. Louis in 1916. Sudholts was an executive in a shoe company. He wanted to convert the properties into a stock ranch.

However, from 1917 to 1940 the resort ranch was largely vacant, although it was used for camping and outings. The Boy Scouts used the abandoned ranch grounds as an encampment in the 1920s. An earlier account of a Boy Scout outing while the ranch was in operation was recorded in "Boys Life." Outings from Paradise Ranch (another "dude ranch") in Woodland Park were also held into the 1930s.

On the other hand, the farming acreage north of Divide was improved and a "kit" (i.e., mail-order) house built. It is still stand-

ing. The Sudholtz's later sold the ranch to the Larsens, who called it the Valley Park Ranch. In 2010, the Larsens sold the property for \$4 million to a Texas family.

The vacant buildings of the resort ranch were still around in 1938 when the 400-acre parcel was condemned and taken over by the U.S. Government. By 1939 the property had been made part of the Fountain Creek Wilderness Project. Later, in 1940 the buildings

were torn down by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to revert the property back into a wilderness. Finally, the resort parcel became part of the Pike National Forest in 1960. All that remains today of the famous Skelton "dude ranch" are a couple of concrete fireplaces, the foundations of the barn, chicken coop and maybe the house and the parts of the large chimneys from the assembly hall.

After the ranch properties were sold in 1916, Judge Skelton and Lizzie moved to Colorado Springs where they practiced their faith (Christian Scientists) in a storefront office in the city. William Skelton died in 1932, followed by Lizzie ten years later. Both are buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

(Source: Local historian, Eric Swab, researched the history of the Skelton Ranch from whose work this story was taken.)

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Park County artists

by Rainey Hall

It is the critical spirit that creates.

Oscar Wilde

Artists galore have the ability to craft all you can imagine year round in Park County, Colorado!

Galleries wait for you only one block southwest of Hwy. 9 in Fairplay and throughout the county. These shops display and sell paintings, jewelry, unusual pottery, photography, various types of stained glass, and wearable art. If that isn't enough, any kind of woodworking is available to amaze you. Custom cabinetry, furniture, pyrography, and whimsical creatures are samples of talent you'll enjoy.

There is an impressive young entrepreneur located in Alma. Mr. Organsky has his own mill; he uses timber he and his brother cut. His artistic approach to hand made furniture is vast, including crafted items from headboards to stereo cabinets. Custom rustic and modern pieces are no problem for Organsky to fashion.

Visiting the vendors is worth your time before or after car shows, the county fair, or concerts.

TGIFairplay free concert series has been cancelled this year due to dredging. Concerts at the "beach" will begin again in June of 2014.

You just want to eat and relax? How about the 1st Annual South Park Kick Ass BBQ competition, in Fairplay on June 21st and 22nd?

Modern doesn't appeal to you? You'll find many antique shops and the South Park City Museum too.



Make memories in South Park!

Photo: <http://www.americantowns.com/co/fairplay/photos>

If you like outrageous, be sure to get your photo taken with Stan, Kyle, Eric, and Kenny.

What's going on a bit farther north? Bailey Day will be held on June 15. For the first time, Bailey Day will be coupled with HUNDO, which is a 100-mile endurance mountain bike race that starts and ends in Bailey.

For more information: www.visitfairplay.net, <http://southparkkickassbbq.org/>, and www.southparkcity.org.

Geology of Teller County

Teller County enjoys some of the most amazing geology on the planet. Several features are found nowhere else. Community Partnership Family Resource Center, a Colorado non-profit devoted to education, is offering a 6-Saturday course (Jul 20th – Aug 24th) in Divide from 9 am to noon. Learn about our gold & silver, gems, fossils, faults, volcanoes, glaciers, and more, with computer imagery, specimens, and a field trip. This is a great experience for teachers, rock hounds or students. Fee: \$80 Call 686-0705 for information & registration.

Highway 77 undergoes major re-construction for 11 miles

by Kathy Hansen

photo by Jeff Hansen



A pilot car guides travelers past the heavy equipment and other obstacles

We are delighted to announce there is major re-construction happening this summer on Hwy 77. The work begins about 13 miles in from Hwy 24 and proceeds for 11 miles to Turner Gulch Road. This is wonderful news because this stretch of highway is a beautiful ride. The potholes that once threatened to consume your SUV are no more. The trees that allowed the ice to remain a hazard well into June are now mulched into water barriers. The curves that brought your focus back to the task of driving will be straightened for safety. All these improvements will make for an enjoyable ride.

Nestled between the Tarryall Mountains and Tarryall Creek, the scenery is breathtaking as it continues to unfold before you. There are many ranches along the way. The wildlife that drinks from the Tarryall Creek is seemingly endless. In fact, as we waited for

the "pilot car" to navigate our way through, the road worker informed us that each day she's seen a bull-moose come to drink from the creek between 10am and 2pm.

It appears as though they have truly thought this one out. There are rock-crushers to break up the rock they are removing from the curves. There are mulching machines grinding the trees into water barriers. They are pumping water from Tarryall Creek to use on site as opposed to having to travel to get it from another source. These steps should help save time, money, and maintain the construction schedule.

The new road will fit nicely into work previously completed from Turner Gulch Road up through to Hwy 285. We are grateful to Kirkland Construction for being so thorough and reconstructing a beautiful stretch of road in Park County!

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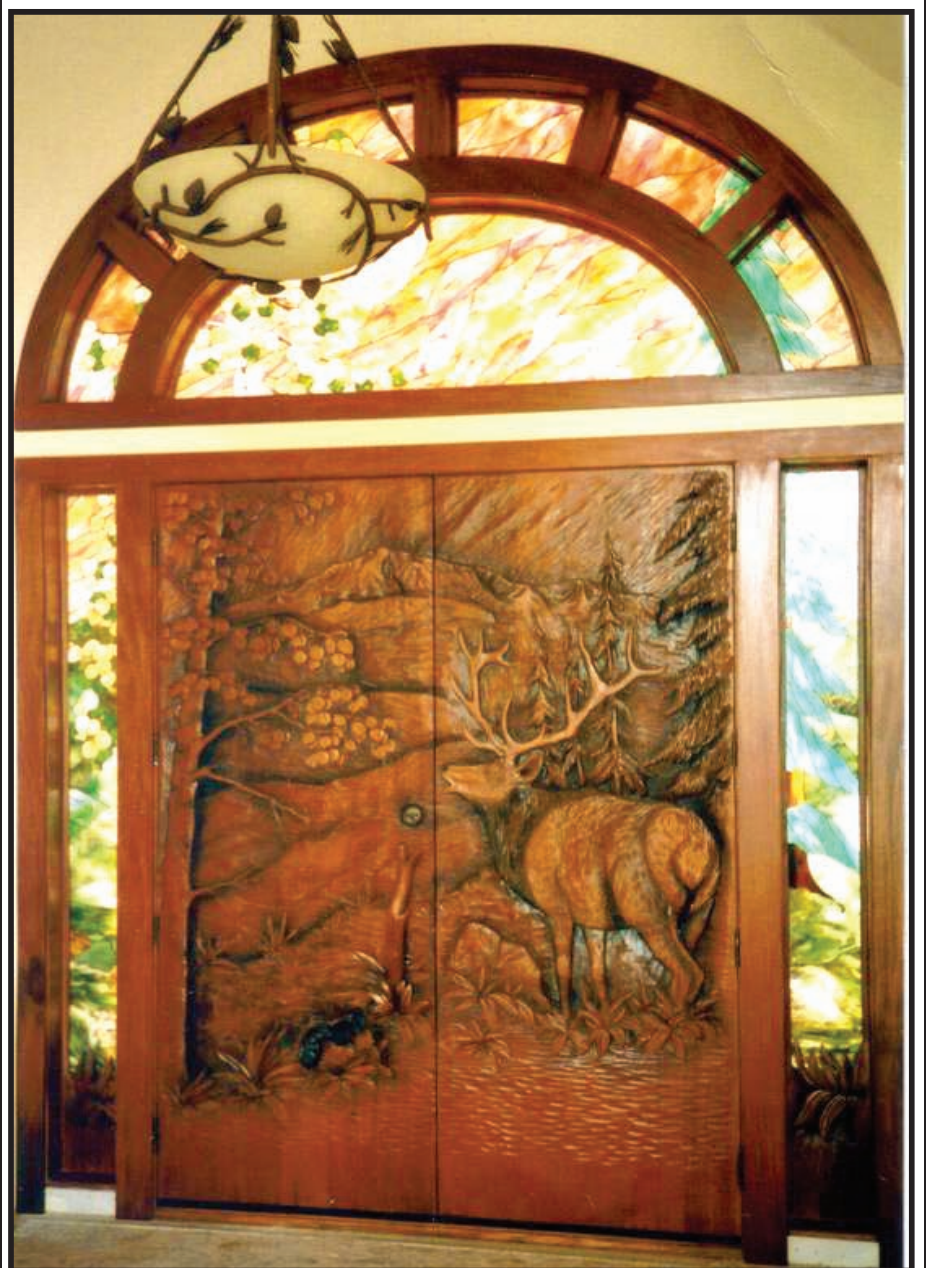
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1st Annual Gem and Mineral Show in Victor

The first annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, Colorado will be held June 22-23. The event will be held in downtown historic Victor and is free to the public.

The show will include vendors from across the state selling Colorado dug minerals, gems, hand-crafted jewelry, mining antiques, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, hand-crafted furniture with mineral inlays, Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District gold ore specimens, as well as gold and gem panning for the kids at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum.

Vendors will set up and be ready for sales by 9am June 22. Show hours are from 9am-5pm on June 22 and 10am- 4pm on June 23. The vendors will be set up on North Third Street in lots between the Post Office Building and the Victor Elks Lodge. The Elks Lodge will be open and members will be grilling burgers on the porch as a fundraiser.

In addition to the show, the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum gift shop will be open both days from 9:30am to 5:30pm with its collection of rocks, gems, minerals, rhodochrosite and aquamarine jewelry, geodes and gold panning for the kids. The museum also houses a mineral collection as well as historic mining equipment, photos, and displays. In addition, guided tours of the modern gold mine are available through the museum – see VictorColorado.com for reservations.

Victor’s many shops and attractions will also be open, including Victor’s Gold Camp Ag & Mining Museum, antique, art and gift shops, the old-fashioned soda fountain, German Bakery, newly owned local bar and eatery, Victor Hotel, as well as the local parks and Trails of Gold where you can explore the historic gold mining country of the area.

Vendors are welcome to sell their gems and minerals at this show. Vendor pre-registration is required for the show. Vendor fees benefit the STCFG efforts of preserving and interpreting historic mining as well as building and maintaining the Trails of Gold through the mining district.

For more information on the STCFG or this event, visit VictorColorado.com, email stcfg@victorcolorado.com, or call 719-689-2675.

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Help elderly loved ones avoid financial abuse

It’s unfortunate, but true: The elderly population may be the most vulnerable group in our society. In fact, in an effort to call attention to the problems of physical, emotional and financial abuse of the elderly, the United Nations has designated June 15 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. If you have older parents or even grandparents, can you do to anything to help prevent them from being victimized, especially with regard to their finances?

Actually, there’s a lot you can do. First and foremost, you need to maintain good communications and a trusting relationship with your older family members. As long as these elements are present, you should feel free to make the following suggestions:

- Increase awareness — When it comes to financial fraud and scams, many seniors think: “It can’t happen to me.” But the facts suggest otherwise: Some 20% of Americans over the age of 65 admit to having been victimized by financial swindles, according to a survey by the non-profit Investor Protection Trust. Let your loved ones know that no one in their age group is immune to financial predators.
- Guard private information — Ask your parents or grandparents to not divulge personal information over the phone. In fact, urge them to get caller ID, if they don’t have it already, and tell them that if they don’t recognize the number, don’t answer. Legitimate callers are more likely to leave messages than scammers.
- Don’t send money. Exhort your parents or grandparents to never wire money to a random account — no exceptions.

- Ignore “limited-time offers” — Your loved ones should ignore callers, mailers or emails that demand they act immediately. These offers are often overblown at best and may be fraudulent at worst.
- Don’t trust “no risk” offers — Financial offers that sound too good to be true are likely just that — untrue. Legitimate investments carry both potential risks and rewards.
- Avoid “debt-settlement” claims — If your older loved ones have debt problems, they may be especially susceptible to offers that claim to “clear up” all their debts. But there’s no quick fix to this problem and any caller who claims otherwise is likely being deceitful. Encourage your parents or grandparents to discuss their debt situation with an honest, professional debt counselor or a financial advisor.

Here’s one more thing you can do to help your parents or grandparents avoid financial fraud: If they don’t already work with a trusted, qualified financial professional, introduce them to one. If your parents have a relationship with such a professional, they will be less likely to listen to any questionable, unsolicited offers than if they were trying to manage their finances on their own.

You’re in a good position to know how much or how little help your elderly loved ones may need in terms of avoiding financial abuse. So be willing to do whatever it takes to help them enjoy their retirement years comfortably.

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



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Organization reaches nearly 850 students in Woodland Park & Divide Elementary Schools

Columbine Elementary



Group volunteers



Ms Teresa Grants 2nd Grade with volunteers Woodland Park Police Chief Bob Larson and Sgt Chris Adams



Ms Ruth Fleshers 1st Grade classroom led by volunteers Like Conrad, Benchmark Mortgage & Leslie Conrad Woodland Park School Dist.



Ms Claudia Millers 4thgrade led by vol Teller County Commissioner Norm Steen



Mr Scott Douds 5th grade led by volunteer Woodland Park Mayor Dave Turley

JA in a Day

Throughout the month of May, Junior Achievement (JA) of Southern Colorado along with more than 60 Teller County volunteers representing 25 local businesses and service clubs, plus community members, parents, grandparents and neighbors spent the day teaching the Junior Achievement in a Day curriculum, also known as JA in a Day, to elementary school students at Summit Elementary school in Divide as well as Columbine and Gateway Elementary schools in Woodland Park.

Guided by the classroom volunteers, nearly 850 students in total enjoyed learning about financial literacy from interactive programs designed to teach a variety of monetary skills and empower young people to own their economic success. Business volunteers represented the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company, Pikes Peak Regional Hospital, the Teller County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Woodland Park, the Teller County Sheriff's department, the Woodland Park Police department, VECTRA Bank, People's Bank, Pikes Peak Credit Union, Swiss Chalet, Michael Harper Real Estate, Benchmark Mortgage, Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center and Nikki's Knots. Service club volunteers represented the Pikes Peak Rotary Club and the Ute Pass Lion's Club. Businesses outside of the Teller County area included Century Link (Pueblo) and Zycron (Denver).

Students learned to recognize the difference between wants and needs; understand life outside of their home and school by exploring businesses, the roles of people working in a community; and the skills needed to perform certain jobs. Older elementary school students had the opportunity to discover how entrepreneurs use resources to produce goods and services in a community. Through engaging activities, these students also learned about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) skills and resources.

Teller County's response to and support of JA's presence in the elementary school classroom was extraordinary! The Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company provided a \$4,000 grant for which the monies were dedicated to purchasing the specialized classroom kits used to

teach the JA curriculum at each grade level. "CC&V is one of Teller County's largest employers and eagerly contributes to community activities and programs that serve the region," said Jane Mannon, Community Affairs Manager. "The value of Junior Achievement to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy is important to CC&V and our families. We encourage our youth to gain the skills necessary to return to their community and contribute to its prosperity," she concluded.

The Creative Providers Foundation administered by Pete Kuyper also funded JA programming with a grant and area businesses contributed with in-kind donations from VECTRA Bank, Walmart, Dominos, the UPS Store, Starbucks and the Donut Mill. JA also received invaluable support from Summit, Columbine and Gateway Elementary schools, the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce, SCORE, the Pikes Peak Courier View, the Ute Country News and The Mountain Jackpot.

As JA volunteers share their real-world experiences and present JA materials, they help kids connect what they learn in school with what they can expect in the world of work. But the students aren't the only ones who benefit from JA – the volunteers enjoy being in the classrooms as well. Comments like 'thanks for the opportunity to help students succeed' and 'it was a fun and fulfilling experience' and 'JA provides all of the training and preparation to make volunteering easy even for someone with no teaching experience' were heard at the schools. Woodland Park Mayor Dave Turley shared that he "thinks JA is a great tool for the schools. As community members, we need to do anything we can to help students develop the skills they need to succeed in the working world."

Volunteer with or donate to Junior Achievement and be a positive influence on the future of young people in Teller County. Contact Sherri L. Albertson, Teller County Area Coordinator at (719) 650-4089 or via email to sherri.albertson@ja.org for more information. The JA in a Day programs will begin again this Fall with Cresson Elementary in Cripple Creek and then cycle through the Divide and Woodland Park areas and beyond.

Gateway Elementary



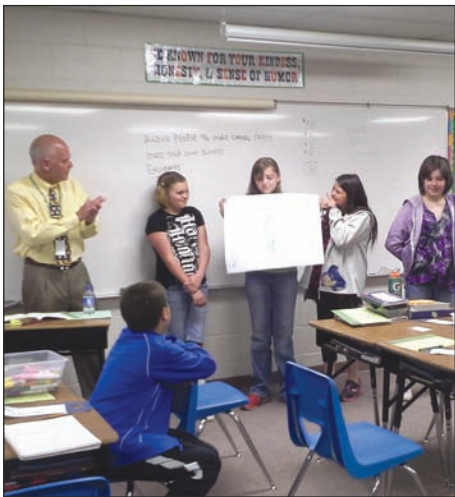
Mr Jon Woods 5th grade volunteer Woodland Park Police Department Sgt Tom Kinney and Dep Chief John Gomes



Group volunteers



Ms Mickie Richardson's 4th grade volunteer parent Jeff St Clair



Ms Lisa Kitsons 5th grade volunteer from Swiss Chalet, Neil Levy



Ms Laura Martins 1st grade led by volunteer parent Megan DeSmidt

Summit Elementary



Ms Beth Woods 1st grade classroom lead by volunteer Krystal Smith from the Teller County Sheriff's office



Kindergarteners learn about the ins and outs of running a farm



Group Volunteers



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Capital Dome. Photo courtesy of CC&V

To top it off

AngolGold Ashanti/Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company will deliver Colorado Gold to the Capital!

by David Martinek

Following up on the April 2013 story, *Gold for the Capital Dome* donated by CC&V, the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mining Company announced recently that it will deliver the gold leaf received from the Giusto Manetti Battiloro factory in Florence, Italy to Gov. Hickenlooper in a ceremony slated for Tuesday, June 18.

The ceremony is slated to take place on the west steps of the Colorado Capital building at 11:45 a.m. amid a host of corporate, non-profit and media sponsors.

"We are planning to take one of our tour vans filled with employees to the ceremony and make a day of it," said Jane Mannon, CC&V Community Affair Manager by email. "Box lunches are planned on the Capital Lawn."

According to Mannon, the mine hopes to lead a bucket brigade of CC&V employees and their families up to Denver to witness the delivery of the gold leaf to the Governor.



Early Summer Fishing

by Jeff Tacey

June is the month in which fishing is getting hot in the Pikes Peak Region. Go now before the water warms up and the bite slows down. With all the cool, snowy, and rainy weather that May provided, June will be a good fishing month.

The late snowpack has also cancelled the draining of Antero Reservoir. Shore fishing will be good at Antero till about mid-July. Try the usual PowerBait, night crawlers, and salmon eggs.

Elevenmile Reservoir will be good until the water starts to get warm and weedy. In the early morning, flies and Rapalas will work well for rainbow trout and northern pike. The fish will be cruising the shoreline till the sun gets high in the sky.

Up on Pikes Peak, Crystal Creek, South Catamount, and North Catamount Reservoirs fishing will be good all summer long. A float tube works awesome up on the peak. Try bait at Crystal and South. Walk away from the crowds. At North Catamount fish with flies and lures only. Drag a tube jig along the bottom for lake trout. Big black, brown, or green Woolly Buggers and Pistol Petes will catch the rainbow and cutthroat trout.

At Spinney Mountain Reservoir, big fish will be hungry into late summer. Use a float tube or small carry on boat as the water level is low and not expected to fill. At Spinney fish with flies and lures only. Match the bug hatch and the trout will keep you busy. Big Rapalas will catch the northern pike.

Skaguay and Tarryall Reservoirs are also options. The trout aren't as big but are willing biters. There are also northern pike in both reservoirs. Bait will work well at both lakes. Check the 2013 Colorado Fishing Rules and Regulations for all laws and rules at these reservoirs.

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I am a true snuggle bunny! I can get pretty excited at times but for the most part I think I'm a lap dog. I like to play with toys and do have some manners but I will need some more training so I know what you want me to do. I get along with some other dogs, so please bring them with you so we can meet prior to my going home with you. I hope there is someone out there willing to give me a chance. I have been looking for my forever home for a few months now. Are you that special person looking for that special dog to fill your life with lots of 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.tcrascolorado.com



Colorado

by Luke Sattler

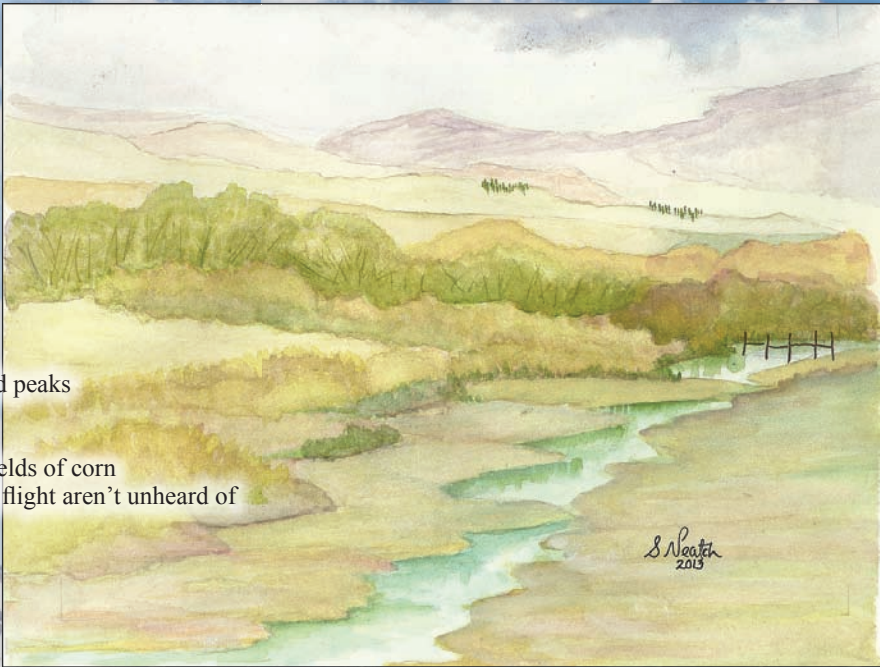
Colorado
Peaks so high
Valleys so low
Where the people are as bright
As the sun that shines

Rivers that flow
Snow that falls
We carve the powder that drifts

To the west—magnificent sheep climb the terraced peaks
And signs of early prospecting now grow old

To the east—easy rolling hills emblazoned with fields of corn
And the sight of pheasant and pronghorn going to flight aren't unheard of

Among the stars and city lights
Colorado



Original watercolor by Steven Veatch

Author Bio: Luke Sattler

Luke is an avid rock, mineral and fossil collector. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and participates in the Earth Science Scholar youth division. Luke has written a number of papers on the geosciences and has been published throughout the US. He is in 9th grade and lives in Castle Rock, Colorado.



Glory

by Zach Sepulveda

Scorching sun upon my back,
Pick in hand and shovel in my pack,
The crimson earth rests beneath my feet,
Concealing treasures held beneath.

Enchanted reality surrounds me,
Materializing an image in my mind,
Rainforests dominate the bone-dry landscape,
And giants walk where the minute crawl.

This Earth had never seen such glory,
Until those greatest of reptiles came to pass.
Nor has this glory been seen since,
Nor will it be seen again.

For this world has met its match
In the machines of man.
And in the grasp of his strangling mechanization,
Will mother nature fall at last?



Original watercolor by Steven Veatch

Author Bio: Zachary Sepulveda

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.



A Rare Colorado Flower: *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *weberi*

by Ciena Higginbotham

The *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp. *weberi* or rabbit ears gilia is a very rare flower that can be found in Northern Colorado. It is also known as Weber's scarlet-gilia, named after William Weber, the famous Colorado botanist. William Weber has a strong connection to Teller County through his biographical publications on William Cockerell—a scientist who made many studies of the fossils at the Florissant Fossil Beds late in the 19th century. Weber's work included: The American Cockerell: A Naturalist's Life, 1866-1948 ; The Valley of the Second Sons: Letters of Theodore Dru Alison Cockerell; and Theodore D.A. Cockerell: Letters from West Cliff, Colorado, 1887-1889.

This uncommon flower has been reported in Teller County and is sometimes found in the Pike National Forest. This plant is more commonly found in the northern parts of Colorado.

The *Ipomopsis* genus is also referred to as the scarlet-gilia; this can be confusing, as some of the members in the genus have white flowers. *Ipomopsis* is a New World genus of 27 species, living in western North America.

Another member of the genus, the beautiful rabbit ears gilia, is a biennial herb. Its flowers have a slender, tubular white corolla (petals of a flower) in the shape of a trumpet 25-60 mm long and 2-3.5 mm wide at the mouth. There is a similar, more common flower you have probably seen before. It's called a fairy trumpet gilia, or sometimes called scarlet gilia, from the species *Ipomopsis aggregata* v. *grant*, which has a more open corolla tube and has pink to red flowers. It also differs from other white spe-



Rabbit ears gilia is a very rare flower that can be found in Teller County.
Original artwork © by the author, Ciena Higginbotham.

cies of scarlet gilia because their floral tubes are salverform (a narrow tubular corolla that opens out to form a very open dish-like apex), rather than filiform (thread-like). The rabbit ear gilia has stems 15 up to 60 centimeters long and it has many pinnate leaves (leaves directly across from each other on a stem). The flowers are closely clumped together on a stem. Usually each flower is white, but one or two pink flowers

sometimes can be found on the plant. The longest anther in the flower is usually at the orifice or exerted. Rabbit ears gilia is noticeable as having a fragrant skunk-like smell—but flower odor is not always a reliable distinction in field surveys.

Ipomopsis aggregata ssp. *weberi* is typically found in the habitat described as "sagebrush slopes" as found on coarse rocky slopes. It is found in north central Colorado, in places like Rabbit Ears pass, Grand, Jackson, and Routt counties. It can be found in southeast Wyoming near Battle Mountain. It wasn't discovered there until 1989, when someone collected the plant. It was also reported in northern Idaho but was a specimen later found to be a small-flowered, white-pigmented population of *Ipomopsis aggregata* ssp.

The red and pink flowered members of the *Ipomopsis* genus are pollinated by hummingbirds, as they are highly attracted to the bright colors. The white and violet-colored flowers are pollinated by hawk moths and sphinx moths. Rabbit ears gilia is mainly pollinated by moths, bees, flies and bee flies.

The main threats to the rabbit ears gilia are different recreational activities. Snowmobiling, hiking, horseback riding and mountain-bike riding are some threats. Weeds are a likely threat to the sustainability of the plant. This plant is also very delicious to some mammals, such as deer and elk. The genus *Ipomopsis* is substantially secure but the subspecies *weberi* is at risk of being endangered. It is ranked imperiled by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and it is even ranked critically imperiled by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD). It is

also categorized as a sensitive species by the Forest Service Region 2 and the Wyoming Bureau of Land Management. The plant is a high conservation priority of the WYNDD. Botanists are keeping a careful eye on it and are taking surveys often. This is a beautiful, rare flower, and we should do whatever we can to preserve it.

Author Bio: Ciena Higginbotham

Ciena Higginbotham is a youth member (Pebble Pups) of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, Lake George, Colorado. She is a 15-year-old 9th grade homeschooler who lives in the beautiful Rocky Mountains in Colorado. She's always had a fascination with geology and has been collecting rocks since she was little. She has attended the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club Pebble Pups since 2010. With the assistance of the group, she had the chance to help write an article and earn several awards. She has also recently won first place in her age group of the National Fossil Day art contest. Her other interests include writing, drawing, and musical activities.



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Recommendations from report will ease, but not eliminate, post-fire flood risks

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

As the Waldo Canyon Fire’s 1st anniversary nears, fire recovery partners from across the region are watching the weather with bated breath. Without the presence of flames and smoke, it can be easy to forget about the lasting effects of this catastrophic fire that consumed 18,247 acres, destroyed 346 homes, and took 2 lives.

For communities in and around the burn scar, the aftermath of the fire is still very apparent. Shortly after the fire last year, many areas saw mudflows and flooding that covered Hwy 24, damaged infrastructure, and devastated homes. Similar events promise to repeat as the warmer, rainier weather is paired with a drastically altered landscape that is much more conducive to flooding. Instead of being slowed by vegetation and absorbed by soil, rain falling quickly on the burn scar is more likely to gain momentum as it travels down bare slopes, taking sediment with it. The increased flood flows resulting from the changed hydrology of the landscape will last for decades, magnifying the impacts of both small and large rain events. Now the question is – what do we do about it?

Fortunately, this question was also posed right after the fire. The Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) is part of a network of partners working on figuring out exactly how to answer the question of what we do now. Using experience and knowledge from restoration efforts after another devastating fire, the Hayman Fire of 2002, CUSP and our partners have been out in the burn scar since last year working on stabilization and recovery. While these initial steps are critical for slowing erosion and will mitigate some of the risks from impending floods, more detailed information was needed to use the limited funding designated for Waldo Canyon Fire recovery in the most effective way. The community recognized the necessity of a study detailing how water flow had changed in and around the burn scar. Having

worked with Dave Rosgen, renowned hydrology and watershed restoration expert, on previous projects, CUSP and our partners knew he was the man for the job.

CUSP commissioned Rosgen’s consulting firm, Wildland Hydrology, to assess the watersheds affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire using the Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply (WARSSS) methodology he developed. WARSSS is a multi-step process used to figure out how water is moving across the land and where extra sediment that clogs channels and intensifies flooding is coming from. For this assessment, Rosgen and his team of partners, including CUSP, the US Forest Service, and Colorado Springs Utilities, focused on the four main watersheds affected by the fire - Camp Creek, Douglas Creek, Fountain Creek, and West Monument Creek.

Looking at the 237 miles of stream in these watersheds, the team was able to identify the areas most in need of attention.

Each affected watershed was divided up into sub-watershed sections for the analysis. By looking at the smaller areas, a more accurate picture of where the largest sediment flows and most destructive flooding would come from could be pieced together. Using a ranking system as part of the 3-phase WARSSS process, a top ten list of the most degraded sub-watersheds was created.

North Douglas Creek tops the priority list. This sub-watershed of Douglas Creek produces the most sediment, potentially 1,913 tons/yr. That’s about 190 dump-truck loads of sediment, most of which will come from stream bank erosion. During rainstorms, the sediment from this creek will flow downhill toward the Mountain Shadows neighborhood on the west side of Colorado Springs. As the sediment travels, it will plug up streams and storm water pipes; ultimately, making the area downstream more prone to frequent flooding.

Other areas of concern include 6 sub-watersheds in the Fountain Creek Watershed and 3 sub-watersheds in the West Monument Creek Watershed. Fountain Creek will see the most drastic annual increase in water runoff, an estimated 2.9 inches per year more than pre-fire levels. Because the creek parallels Highway 24 and runs through Manitou Springs into Colorado Springs, Fountain Creek’s swelled flows could cause havoc for neighborhoods and those that rely on the Highway 24 thoroughfare.

In West Monument Creek, we have already seen the impact of post-fire storms on Colorado Springs’ water infrastructure. What would have otherwise been an insignificant rain event at the end of July 2012 turned into a highly destructive storm that caused substantial harm to West Monument Creek and resulted in millions of dollars in damages to critical water piping.

While none of Camp Creek Watershed’s sub-watersheds rank in the top ten on the priority list, the watershed as a whole will produce considerable amounts of sediment. As this sediment moves downstream, it will increase erosion rates and fill streams. The clogged channels will not be able to hold as much water, increasing the likelihood of flooding as Camp Creek moves through Colorado Springs, paralleling N. 30th Street most of the way.

Understanding how these scenarios will likely play out gives us the best hope for preventing future damage. Using the data from the WARSSS, Rosgen and his team have proposed a detailed list of prescriptions to slow destructive processes and alter the current post-fire flooding trajectory to reduce frequent flooding.

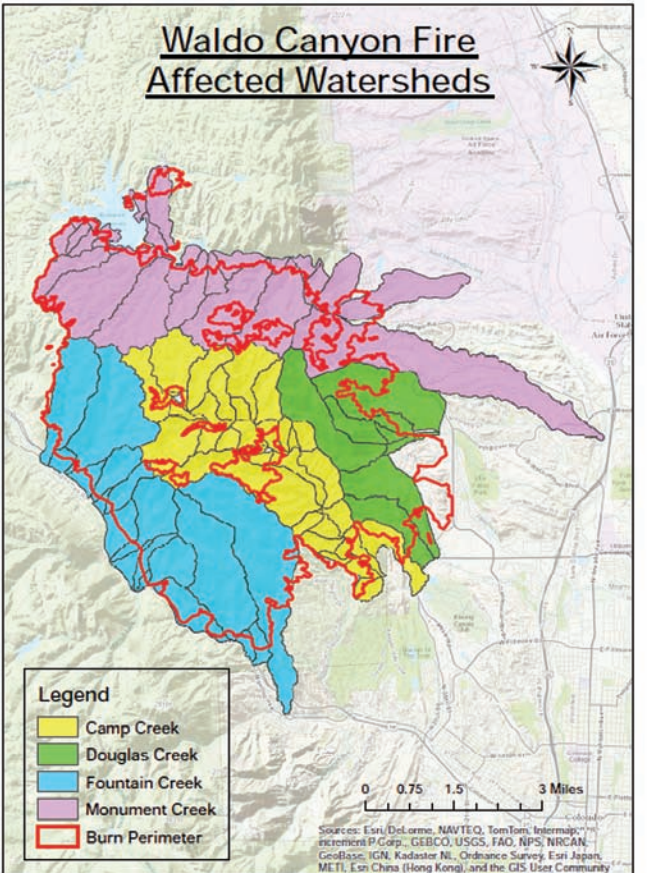


Figure 2. Major watershed delineation of Camp Creek, Douglas Creek, Fountain Creek and West Monument Creek.

Source - Waldo Canyon Fire Watershed Assessment: The WARSSS Results; Wildland Hydrology, Blue Mountain Consultants, US Forest Service

These prescriptions are based on the idea that nature knows best and the most effective way to fix the problem is to emulate natural systems. This means going back to how the now-impaired stream system would have acted before a catastrophic fire and before human interference. The Natural Channel Design method is based on this concept and is used to restore stream stability so that the system does not experience unsustainable movement of sediment. The work looking forward using a Natural Channel Design will include re-vegetating hill slopes with native vegetation; using natural materials (such as felled logs and boulders) to slow in-stream water flow and erosion; creating sediment basins and pools of deep streambed to catch sediment; and reconnecting channels to natural floodplains and alluvial fans (areas where sediment brought by water is spread and deposited).

Going back to nature not only sounds good, but we know it works. Trail Creek, an area that experienced massive flooding and degradation following the Hayman Fire, was restored using information from the WARSSS and employing the Natural Channel Design methodology. The area has since rebounded, with drastically reduced erosion, sedimentation, and flooding.

While some of the prescriptions called for in Rosgen’s Waldo Canyon Fire report have already been completed or are in the works, much still needs to be done. The restoration plan, if completed in full, is a multi-million dollar project. Stream restoration costs an estimated \$25-\$44 per foot, sediment basins come in around \$2-\$10 per ton of storage, and erosion treatments can cost \$1,000-\$6,000 per acre. These costs add up quickly and because the work is more effective if recommended treatments are completed for the whole system, seeing the greatest benefit will require considerably more funding than is currently available.

While the measures outlined by Rosgen and his team cannot significantly change the results of a catastrophic flood, they will reduce the flooding risks from normal rainstorms. It will take decades for the burn scar to heal and the area to return to pre-fire flood intervals. Homes and businesses located on floodplains will continue to be in harm’s way for years to come but with a strong community effort the risks can be reduced.

The WARSSS report and its companion document, the Waldo Canyon Fire Master Restoration Plan, were recently released and can be accessed in full on the CUSP website (<http://uppersouthplatte.org/>). Together, these documents give us a clear, science-based path forward as we continue restoration work to protect our communities.

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There is no restriction on subject matter. It can be pictures of wildlife, trees, flowers or people having fun. The photo just has to be taken in the park and must have been taken in 2013. Photographers will be divided into two age groups, younger than 17 versus 17 and older.

Email high resolution photos no larger than 2 MB to photosMuellerSP@gmail.com. Please do not submit more than 3 photos per time period. Entries will require: name, age, a contact email, place where the photo was taken (e.g. Elk Meadow Trail) and date the

photo was taken. Phone number is optional.

Enter a photo during the following time periods: May 1st to June 30th, July 1st to August 31st, and September 1st to October 30th.

Two winners, one from each age group, will be chosen for each period by a local professional photographer and former Mueller State Park volunteer naturalist, Lenore Hotchkiss. Winners will each receive a \$50 Gift Certificate that is valid at Mueller State Park.

This contest is sponsored by the Friends of Mueller State Park.

Official Rules

Winners will be notified by email within 2 weeks after the end of each period.

Volunteers are eligible to participate but park employees are not. Professional photographers who sell their photos cannot participate.

Entries will require: name, age and a contact email. A phone number is optional.

Selected or winning photos may be displayed on the park Facebook page and on the park website, newsletters and on other printed and electronic marketing materials. Photos may be used for future promotions. We will not sell your photos or compensate you mon-

etarily for your photos.

When you submit photos via email, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of this contest. You are agreeing to allow the park to use your photos on printed and electronic materials.

If your photo is selected as a winner and there are people in your photos, you will need to submit a model release form covering every person in the photo. We will email this form to you. Either email the signed form to us, mail it to: Mueller State Park, P.O. Box 39, Divide, CO 80814, or drop it off at the Visitors Center.

Most important, have fun and enjoy the outdoors!

Festival Orchestra Concert - Free!

Please join us June 8th at 7pm for the Colorado College Annual Summer Music Festival at the Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland, Woodland Park.

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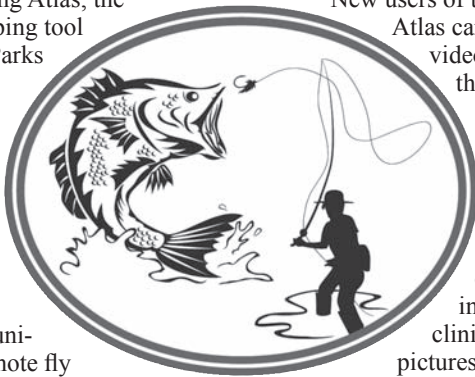
Check us out on the web at: www.woodlandmusicseries.com

Colorado launches new fishing resources for anglers

by Randy Hampton

Whether you're a seasoned angler or you've never picked up a rod, finding a place to fish in Colorado has never been easier! Colorado Parks and Wildlife has launched several new tools for anglers ready to enjoy everything Colorado fishing has to offer.

The Colorado Fishing Atlas, the latest interactive mapping tool offered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, allows users to search for fishing opportunities by species, specific interest or proximity to your home or destination. Use the simple map interface to locate and view recommended opportunities for the family, remote fly fishing or ice fishing. Additional information such as handicap accessible fishing access, stocked waters, boat ramps, special fishing regulations, stream gages, license agents and Gold Medal waters is included overlaid on top of Bing™ street maps, USGS topographic maps or high-resolution color aerial photography. The Colorado Fishing Atlas also includes a printable Fishing Resource Report that provides



nearby state and federal management agency offices, emergency facilities, campgrounds and fishing license agents. The Colorado Fishing Atlas can be found online through the fishing page on Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at <http://cpw.state.co.us>.

New users of the Colorado Fishing Atlas can also watch short video tutorials that explain the system.

In addition to the new interactive Colorado Fishing Atlas, Colorado anglers can now share tips, share recipes, get the latest conditions, find a fishing buddy, find a fishing clinic, ask questions, or post pictures of their latest catch on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Fishing page on Facebook. Facebook users can find and "like" the new page by searching for "CPW Fishing" or by going to <http://facebook.com/CPWFishing>.

If Twitter is your social media platform of choice, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (@COParksWildlife) has launched a Twitter feed for anglers. Follow the fish on Twitter @CPWFish.



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The first rain - an ode to springtime

by David Martinek

The first really good rain of the season fell awhile ago. Almost before the raindrops hit the ground, patches of green appeared where there was none the day before. Spring comes late to the Rockies. Some say it only comes on the calendar. But when Mother Nature finally decides to switch from snow showers to rain showers, the effect comes in a flash and suddenly the yellow, russet hues left over from winter erupt into a cascade of green.

Like the poem says:
“Rain, glorious rain! Quenching the thirst of the morning;
Birds warble a tune, and green appears without warning.”
We enjoy every season along Ute Pass. Yes, we complain about the long winters and the late, wet snows, but deep down inside we secretly are grateful for the life-giving moisture falling on this place where we live in the shadow of Pikes Peak.
We watch the rapid transformation from a white winter scene with snow drifts and cool temperatures to one that quickly morphs into budding leaves and new grass. The snow-melt fills the streams with rushes of water. The groves of aspen take on a spring tint, as the pine and spruce shed their dark green needles that sustained them through winter to put on lighter shades. Yellow pine pollen will soon permeate the air and little cones



will begin to form on their branches. The dry grasses in the meadows give way to new growth and wildflowers in an abundance of colors will soon reach for the sun.
There is also a resurrection of wildlife. The bear come out of hibernation, hungry and thin. Elk herds wander to and fro in the early mornings or at dusk in ever widening pastures grazing the tender grass shoots. Sometimes the females will spill over into the roadways. Mule deer appear with their spotted fawn and watch over them with a mother’s concern. Smaller animals - squirrels, rabbits, chipmunks - can be seen scurrying around. Birds are everywhere and the prairie dogs once again take up their vigil along our country roads. All about it seems that everything is coming to life. Just because of a little rain.
Along Ute Pass just beyond the Front

Range of central Colorado, up the long and winding canyon that opens into vistas of mountain green above the plains, there is a mystical, unexplainable, indefinable tie to the land waiting to snare everyone who ventures that way – causing an instant adoption by all who see the surrounding beauty that unfolds when raindrops appear. It is a strong and powerful aphrodisiac – almost an addiction. Once the sweet smell of rainy mountain air fills your soul, there is no cure for nature’s love song.
In each heart of those who live here, there is a quiet surge of emotion when the land awakens with the falling of the first rain. It’s springtime. The days shine a little brighter. Folks step a little livelier and put on a happy face, having emerged from the cocoon of winter into a promise of growth and renewal.



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Waldo Canyon:

The smell of burning trees. The cries of fear and pain from animals and plants. The orange glow illuminating the sky just above the crest of the hill. The forest was burning down. The forest spirit galloped to the top of the hill as fast as it could. It skidded to a stop and looked down into a short valley that the fire was slowly devouring. The smoke burned its nostrils and eyes. On the ridge across from it, the forest was a chaotic mess of death and life. Some animals fled as fast as they could; others were not so lucky. The forest spirit couldn't catch its breath and was losing strength as fast as the forest was being burned. Its ears rung, disorienting it. Its heart beat so strongly and rapidly that its chest began to ache. But there was a deeper pain inside of the spirit, one that would take time to fade. The wind shifted quickly and the valley was lost to thick plumes of smoke that extended their ashy tendrils toward the forest spirit. The spirit had no choice but to turn and flee back down the hill. Nothing could be done now but to wait and hope for the best.

That was almost a year ago. . .

The burnt smell had mostly vanished. The cries of fear and pain had diminished to a silence broken at times only by chirps from small birds. Blue sky with scattered clouds had shown above the crest of the hill. Where there was once chaos, there was stillness. A stillness that resembled being at the top of Pike's Peak. It was almost

suffocating. Though most of the forest remained a rocky wasteland, life was slowly moving amongst the charred remains. Ash no longer floated to the ground. Scorch marks still marred the dirt, though they weren't as black as they had been in the days after the fire. Some areas had been burned so badly that vegetation probably wouldn't ever return.

The forest spirit visited these barren places often, the deep pain in its body still there. This season, the forest spirit's body was part bull elk, part human. The upper torso was human and the lower half an elk. Though, the whole body was covered in fur with the same coloration of an elk. Large antlers crowned its head, but the face was that of a human woman. Lean muscle was visible under the fur on the torso; the fur sleek, now that summer was fast approaching. The spirit stood by a small, blackened tree, slowly sliding its fingers down the smooth surface. The spirit pulled its fingers back and looked at the light smudging of black. The spirit had no fingerprints, so its skin didn't appear textured under the black smudges. The large elflike ears slowly turned toward the snapping of twigs. The humans must be back, it thought, looking in the direction of the sound with soft, silver eyes.

The spirit had been watching the humans work on helping the forest to restore itself. The spirit appreciated their help and could tell that the forest did too. Yet, so much work still remained. It was tough to stay positive, even for a spirit. It slowly made its way through the trees, intently observing the small group. Never did the spirit interact with them and never did it allow itself to be seen. The spirit stopped and watched, listening to their soft chatter, and a small smile graced its lips. The spirit soon became engrossed in watching them, but a shrill ringing sound was gradually getting louder in its ears. Grimacing, it squeezed its eyes shut and covered its ears. Its eyes shot open after a moment and the scenery was completely different. The ground was completely black and every tree was ablaze. The pain in the spirit flared just like the fire that it saw all around and the spirit dropped to its front knees, panting hard and staring at its hands pressed into the ashen earth. The cries of the dying

and the frightened plants and animals deafened the spirit. It was overwhelming and the spirit wanted it to end, but it felt like it never would. However, in another moment, the scenery was back to the group of humans.

The spirit staggered and swayed, doing its best to catch its breath and calm its thudding heart. It finally turned and headed back down the ridge away from the humans. The spirit walked for a while, eventually finding itself in an area that the fire hadn't reached. Despite the grass being brown and the trees still looking brittle, the spirit felt life thriving here. It laid down underneath a pine tree and leaned back against the rough trunk. The flashback had exhausted the spirit. Soon, it was calm enough to get into a more comfortable position to rest.

The spirit dreamed. It dreamed of the days before humans even existed. It dreamed of the Western Interior Seaway that had been an inland sea during the mid-to late Cretaceous period and had covered the range that the Rocky Mountains do presently. It dreamed of the quakes and the violent disruption of life that came with them. But the quakes were just another way for nature to maintain balance and help push Earth to the next stage in its life. The seabed of the Western Interior Seaway was eventually thrust upward in an event named by the humans as the Laramide orogeny. The area of Waldo Canyon was created by erosion. The spirit could still remember feeling in awe as it watched its territory expand and become rich with life. The spirit dreamed of walking through the young forest and touching everything it could to help it grow. Then there was a flash of bright orange and the spirit startled awake to find the sun setting.

Light snow fell around the spirit as it walked along the perimeter of the burn scar. It jumped up onto a boulder, shut its eyes, and breathed in deeply the moist air. When it opened its eyes, it found the Winter Child sitting atop his bull elk just a few yards below the boulder. To the right of the Winter Child was Arina of the coyote riders with her coyote, Nella. They were just a couple of the many guardians of the forest of the Teller County area.

"We're here to help," said the Winter Child with



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A Real Phoenix

by Danielle Dellinger

a firm nod. “I may be a protector of the elk herds, but this is part of their home.”

The spirit smiled and looked to Arina. “We just want to help restore balance.” The spirit nodded and hopped off of the boulder, walking down to the two of them. The bull elk slowly lowered his head out of respect for the spirit and it patted the animal’s neck. The forest spirit motioned for Arina and the Winter Child to follow it to a cluster of unburned trees nearby. At the center, the spirit stopped and turned to face the two who had left their animal companions behind. The spirit reached out its hands toward them and they mirrored it. The three of them held hands for a moment in silence, then orbs of flickering silver light emerged from behind the spirit and bobbed down onto Arina’s and the Winter Child’s hands.

Arina gasped as she felt a strange power zing through her, making every nerve ending tingle and almost crackle with energy. The Winter Child felt like he couldn’t breathe as he stared at his hand being held by the forest spirit. The energy shooting through him made him quiver like a tiny dog. Something moved beside him and he looked to see a slender staff growing out of the ground with a cluster of ponderosa pine branches at the top that curled in on themselves. The same thing was happening by Arina, except the branches on hers were of a conifer tree. The two looked at the spirit as it released their hands and spread its arms wide to indicate what it wanted. It took a moment, but the two finally understood and they nodded. They looked up at the sky to see the snow had stopped and they knew they didn’t have much time to use this temporary power. The Winter Child pulled his staff from the ground and took off running back toward his elk with Arina right behind him, clutching her own staff.

They leaped onto their animals and took off galloping in opposite directions of each other. They both moved swiftly before gaining this new power, but now they basically flew over the terrain, the ends of their staffs dragging along the ground. The sun partially appeared from behind the clouds, casting down a weak, golden glow. It was just what the earth needed and almost instantly, tiny green sprouts could be seen pushing their way up through the dirt. The forest spirit went to the topmost ridge and stood there, watching. They seemed to be enjoying themselves and the spirit smiled, glad to see that happiness was finally returning to such a wounded place. As its smile grew, something stirred inside of its body. The deep pain that its body had been harboring began to lessen. The spirit made a noise of surprise and blinked, looking down and putting its hands on its abdomen. It couldn’t believe what it was feeling. It looked back up to see Arina weaving

through the trees toward it.

Arina flew past the spirit, laughing as Nella leaped over boulders. The staff was becoming shorter, indicating that the power was almost gone. As she passed the Winter Child, they knocked their staffs together, creating a shower of golden sparks that were carried up into the trees by the wind. Each spark touched a branch and very small buds appeared along the tip. When the staffs reached the bundle of branches, they rubbed the needles against each tree as an encouragement to help them recover. However, they knew there were some that would never return to life. When the power was all gone, they went back to the spirit, who smiled proudly at them.

Arina giggled and plopped to the ground, leaning against Nella. “That was so splendid!” she giggled. “The forest surely is going to come back stronger and better now.”

The Winter Child nodded in agreement. “I’m just glad that my elk will have another part of their territory back.”

The spirit gave off the impression of chuckling and nodded. It held out its hands again and Arina scrambled to her feet and moved closer, as did the Winter Child. The spirit leaned down and kissed their foreheads softly, cradling the back of their heads as it did so. It released them after a couple of moments, gazed into their eyes for another, then turned and slowly started walking along the ridge. The Winter Child waved, then got on his elk and trotted back the way he’d originally come. Arina got on Nella and did the same.

The wind whistled lowly through the trees and the spirit felt as if the whole place was breathing easier. The forest spirit slowly walked around the entire burn area, looking over every new sprout. Sometimes it would stop and lie down and whisper something to the sprout. When the spirit would pull away, the leaves on the sprout appeared to be fuller. The spirit only really talked to the plants because they were so quiet and stoic, only making noises when in pain. Even when they were joyful, they remained silent. There was something mesmerizing about it. The spirit made its way down into a valley that once had beautiful bushes scattered throughout. As it walked among them, it brushed the palms of its hands across the top, causing small gold sparks to bloom around its hands and then settle down onto the bush.

The spirit closed its eyes as it walked, relying mostly on touch to guide it through the valley. As it neared the end, it finally opened its eyes, gazing softly at the scenery ahead of it. However, there was a shimmering figure standing several yards away. The spirit narrowed its eyes and cautiously walked closer, not knowing what to expect. The vibe the figure gave off didn’t appear to be threatening, but the spirit

rarely trusted anything that didn’t appear in a completely solid form, hence the extreme wariness of fire before the big blaze burned down half of the forest. The figure took more of a shape that seemed to be human and the spirit stopped several feet away, bracing for anything.

“What’s with the guardedness, forest spirit?” asked the figure in a voice that was a combination of a male and a female human.

The spirit merely blinked, not even bothering to shrug. “Ah. You rule this realm and don’t like intruders,” the figure guessed.

This time the spirit nodded.

“But I’m no intruder. I’m everything that makes up this forest. I’m the force that created all of this world and governs it. Don’t you recognize Mother Nature, spirit?”

The spirit opened its mouth a little and took a slight step back.

Mother Nature chuckled, remaining mostly an undefined figure, though she gave off the impression that she was smirking. “You’ve done well with this forest, spirit. I’m pleased that you’ve already begun the regrowth. I figured the light snow I sent here would give you a nudge in the right direction. The use of the two guardians was quite clever. It’s difficult to run in that body that you’ve chosen, isn’t it?”

The spirit shrugged, smiling some.

“Still not speaking for anyone but the plants, huh? Well, at least you’re not a chattering nymph.”

The spirit smirked, turned, and started away.

Mother Nature floated after the forest spirit, accompanying it to the top of the highest hill that looked down upon a stretch of Ute Pass. Mother Nature spotted the small green buds near the highway. “Would you look at that. You’re really thorough with your job.” She smiled and passed a shimmering extremity down the spirit’s back. The spirit looked down at the highway, watching a few cars navigate the curves. Its gaze lingered there for a few more minutes before it turned and began walking back to a part of the forest where the trees stood closer together.

“Spirit!” Mother Nature called, turning to face it as it stopped and looked back at her. “Thank you for healing this forest. I hope the humans believe in phoenixes, because this forest is turning into one. Everything’s rising from the ashes and coming back to life. If they don’t believe in phoenixes, I hope that you help to prove them wrong and show them what this forest is really capable of.”

The spirit bowed its head slightly before turning and disappearing from view. It knew in its heart that Waldo Canyon was indeed a real phoenix.



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Participants will experience some really beautiful scenery as they peddle in this year's Experience Ride.

Experience Ride

by Deborah Maresca of Mountain Top Cycling Club

The Experience Ride is June 22, starting at 6am leaving from the Florissant Grange, spanning three routes, 106 miles with 1,000 feet of elevation gain going into Cripple Creek, Victor and around Guffey. There will be a 75 mile and 19 mile route as well. This ride will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Teller County Search and Rescue and the Mountain Top Cycling Club, which are 501(c) 3 organizations. This is the Mountain Top Cycling Club 2nd annual event. The first year we had 40 registered riders, this year we have already doubled that amount. We are excited to announce that there are four British Army Officers that have registered for the ride. They are on a one year training program in Kansas. They will fly into Denver and are planning on staying at the Air Force Academy. We have riders coming in from OH,

WY, TX, NE and ND, as well as the locals from Fort Collins, Boulder and Denver just to mention a few places. This year's ride will offer free lunch, provided by the Florissant Grange. Each rider will receive a free t-shirt unique to Teller County, free massages from Colorado Institute of Massage and Hot Heads Salon, free commemorative century patch for the Century riders. Thanks to PARADOX Brewery each rider and volunteer will get a coupon for a free pint of draft beer. We anticipate that we will break triple digits before ride day. People can sign up to ride or volunteer at www.prace.com search "Experience Ride." To volunteer click on the volunteer tab. Volunteers will also get a free lunch and t-shirt. For more information they can go to the website www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com or they can call Debbie 719-687-2489.

2nd Annual Woodland Park Cemetery Crawl

Are you ready to learn a little more history about the settlers of Woodland Park? Join the Ute Pass Historical Society on Thursday, July 4th. Take a walk around the Cemetery and meet some of the old pioneers who are resting in the Woodland Park Cemetery, located at 650 Short Street. Tours start every 15 minutes from 1 to 3 pm. Tickets cost \$5, and are now available at the Ute Pass Historical Society Gift Shop, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue, WP, or at the gate. Please call UPHS at 719.686.7512 or e mail uphs@peakinter.net for more information. Do you have an itch to put your acting skills to good use? Or, would you just like to be a tour guide for our 2nd Annual Cemetery Crawl? Volunteers are needed for actors, tour guides, and parking directors. Last year was a great success for the Ute Pass Historical Society and we'd love to see you there!



Donna Finicle dons period attire in preparation for the Cemetery Crawl.

Ready for rhubarb?

by Kathy Hansen
photo by Jeff Hansen

Rhubarb is a fairly easy to grow herbaceous plant, whose stalks are edible and are considered a vegetable. Do not eat the leaf of the rhubarb as that is poisonous due to the oxalic acid. Rhubarb is a cool season perennial that can remain productive for 8-15 years. The plant root can be divided every 4-5 years to rejuvenate the plant. It does not like temperatures above 90° F or prolonged drought. In fact, it is a heavy feeder and should always be watered directly at the base. If your rhubarb bolts (flowers) you can cut that flowering stalk just as soon as you identify it as well as any subsequent flowering stalks. This may help the plant to continue to produce stalks. Bolting is the entrance into the maturation phase of the life cycle. The botanical name is *Rheum rhabarbarum*; the Latin name stems from the Roman belief that the people who ate rhubarb were barbaric in nature. The plant originates in Asia and was first cultivated by the Chinese



as early as 2700 B.C. Ben Franklin was known to send rhubarb seeds to the American Colonists. Rhubarb has medicinal uses, mostly as a laxative because it is high in fiber. It contains calcium and is also high in Vitamins C, A, and K, as well as B complexes such as folates, riboflavin, niacin, and B-6. Rhubarb has only about 26 calories per cup. Rhubarb stalks can be eaten fresh, usually with a little sugar or honey. It can be frozen, used in pies, jams, chutney, and even wine.

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Survey shows high angler satisfaction in Colorado

by Randy Hampton

Colorado's human population is growing and becoming more diverse. Colorado Parks and Wildlife is making sure to keep pace. A 2012 Angler Survey report commissioned by the agency unveiled an informative collection of data that will allow the agency to serve the needs of a changing sport-fishing culture.

The survey respondents let Colorado Parks and Wildlife know that they preferred fishing for trout and that the overall satisfaction level of anglers was high. Results also revealed the potential impact of a changing sport-fishing demographic on the Colorado's hatchery system.

"We're trying measure how angler demand might change over the next 10-20 years," said Stacy Lischka, a human dimensions specialist and compiler of the survey. "This is critical information that will help us provide the angling opportunities people would like to have in Colorado."

The majority of both resident and non-resident anglers responded that they were either "very" or "somewhat" satisfied with their fishing experience in Colorado. Thirty-three percent of residents said they were "very" satisfied, along with 48 percent of non-residents, and 33 percent of resident anglers responded that they were "somewhat" satisfied with their experience, compared to 32 percent of non-residents.

Despite the positive response, the survey indicates there is room for improvement. Forty-six percent of resident anglers wanted additional fishing opportunities for rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout. Non-residents favored brown, cutthroat and lake trout, with 64% wanting additional opportunities to fish for those species. Currently, rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout make up most of the agency's hatchery fish. The majority of fish caught in Colorado are stocked by the agency. Because Colorado Parks and Wildlife's hatchery system is aging, increasing these numbers to meet angler desires may require an update and expansion of the system.

"The majorities of our hatcheries are more

than 75 years old and require nearly constant maintenance," said Chief of Hatcheries Matt Nicholl. "Recent budget constraints have limited our ability to keep up with repairs, much less provide upgrades."

Along with an aging hatchery system, Colorado's anglers are aging as well. As a larger number of older anglers retire, they may spend more time on the water. The survey found that more than half of anglers 51 to 70 years old bought a license in all of the last five years, whereas just 37 percent of anglers under 50 purchased licenses every year. More anglers on the water may increase demand for accessible public access sites or lead to crowding at existing sites. In addition, as the angler population ages, a higher proportion of Colorado's anglers are becoming eligible for the Senior License, and that could prove problematic for the agency. Colorado residents over the age of 64 pay only one dollar for a fishing license, so as more anglers reach that age, fishery management could face a drop-off in funding.

Other notable findings include a potential for increased pressure on future trout stocks. The Colorado State Demographer's Office projects an expected decrease in the proportion of Colorado's white, non-Hispanic population, while the proportion of the Hispanic population is expected to increase. Survey results indicate Hispanic anglers are more likely to keep their catch than non-Hispanic anglers, which could increase harvest pressure on future trout stocks. Although these shifts are unlikely to change species preferences, it also could affect the way the agency markets fishing to anglers.

The survey was sent to 3,000 randomly selected anglers -- 1,500 residents and 1,500 non-residents -- with 1,404 respondents.

A copy of the 2012 Colorado Angler Survey Fact Sheet is available on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website. The full report is available upon request by contacting Stacy Lischka at stacy.lischka@state.co.us.

11th Annual Great American Clean-up

by Lisa Parnell

Keep Woodland Park Beautiful will host its 11th Annual Great American Clean-up on Saturday, June 8, 2013 in Memorial Park. This community-wide event will begin at 9am and conclude with a free barbecue lunch that starts at noon. The committee welcomes residents and visitors, new-comers and old-timers, families and individuals, business owners and retirees. This is your chance to show your pride in our city while making a new friend or catching up with an old one.

The mission of Keep Woodland Park Beautiful is to protect our community, the wildlife that live here, and the area's natural beauty by enlisting support of volunteers to help reduce litter, junk, refuse, and rubbish;

promoting the responsible handling of trash, refuse, and solid waste through education, recycling, and enforcement; encouraging enhancement of public views and spaces; and recognizing businesses, groups, and individuals for their commitment to community. Last year volunteers collected over 20 cubic yards of litter along roadways and ditches in Woodland Park. The Great American Clean-up is also the perfect opportunity to join the City's Adopt-a-Spot program by pledging to maintain your own neighborhood street.

Trash bags, rubber gloves and safety vests will be provided. Participants should bring water, work gloves, and sunscreen. Please call Lisa Parnell at 687-5209 for more information.

Guffey happenings

by Flip Boettcher

Meet our new Fire Chief and enjoy a spaghetti dinner 5-8pm on June 10. See our new fire trucks and equipment. Sponsored by South Park County Fire Protection Department.

Donations are being accepted for our July 4th Open House, which includes a garage/yard sale, pizza and ice cream social. The event will be held July 4th, 5th, and 6th at the Fire Station in Guffey. To arrange for drop off or pick up call Harry Ginzer, Yard Sale Chairman, 719-689-3538 or Doug Schellenger, Auxillary President 719-479-2282. The Hawk Quest Raptor Rescue may visit us on the 5th.

Guffey Library

Guffey Library Kick Off Party June 1 - This is intended to be a lot of fun and educational. Call for more info 719-689-9280.

Thursday afternoon reading program -- will begin in June. Call for more info 719-689-9280.

This year we are doing "Book\$ for Buck\$" with our Summer Reading Program. The children read a library book to earn "Buck\$" and then redeem these at the "Library Book Buck Shop." This shop will be stocked with all things

fun, yummy, educational, and creative. Usually a library stocks up all year long for these items. Unfortunately we are getting a late start this year. I would like to ask for the community's help this initial summer. Would you please consider donating? Appropriate items can be found at home, yard sales, clearance aisles, Dollar Stores, etc. We're thinking games, puzzles, silly putty, bubbles, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, play jewelry, bulk candy bars, bulk packs of gum, balloons, crafts, fancy duct tape (very popular), perfumes, chapstick, nail polish, stickers, temporary tattoos, beads, matchbox cars and trucks, ceramic piggy banks and figurines, books, Legos, stamps and ink pads, stationary, gel or paint pens, chalk, jump ropes, jacks, etc. As silly as some of these seem, the kids love "purchasing" these items with their "Book Buck\$" which in the end means they are reading (or being read to) and falling in love with the library and books!!!

Annual 4th of July Book Sale by Friend's of the Guffey Library will be held at the Guffey Library Thursday, July 4, 2013. Contact the Guffey Library for more info 689-9280.

For more information on Guffey Library events please call 719-689-9280

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Welcome Home Warriors seeks Guinness World Record

by Kathy Hansen

Ever wonder what you might do to help a wounded warrior? You can buy a yellow ribbon to tie onto the “Warrior Tree” in Lions Park in Woodland Park to honor our veterans. The goal is to have 8,465 ribbons, which is a ribbon for each foot of elevation for Woodland Park, by July 4th of this year.

Welcome Home Warrior is a 501(c)3 established in 2007 to serve the veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. They have expanded their mission to be inclusive of all veterans. Welcome Home Warrior is currently producing free family retreats for families of deployed soldiers and for families with combat veterans at home. They counsel veterans’ families and can hold support groups for families and individual counseling on a sliding fee scale or pro bono for those unable to

pay. They are a Medicare certified provider.

How necessary is this service? A recent survey found the suicide rate among soldiers/veterans is an alarming 21 per day. We know that suicide rates are higher in higher altitude, so yes, this matters.

The cost is only \$1.00 per ribbon. \$80 donors will have their name, business or logo on a commemorative poster. Short on money but long on time? Volunteers are needed to make bows and collect donations.

Please help Welcome Home Warriors break the yellow ribbon record. For more information, please contact founder and Executive Director, Donna Finicle WelcomeHomeWarrior@comcast.net or 719-439-3621 or mail your donation directly to WHW, POB 7217 Woodland Park CO 80863.



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Rampart Library District News

Summer Reading, “Digging into Reading,” begins June 1 for adults, teens and children! The District offers online registration for children and teens from home or at either library location, Woodland Park or Florissant. Children and teens win prizes for reading goals met and adults simply fill out forms for each library book they read. All can enter into drawings for weekly prizes. The end-of-summer reading party (titled the Stache Bash) is on July 19, 10-Noon at the Woodland Park Public Library. Everyone is encouraged to wear mustaches-no matter your age or gender!

The Florissant Public Library is planning a summer of fun for children and teens. Stop by to pick a complete schedule of events! Every Thursday begins with Storytime for the little ones in the morning at 10:30am. Then from 2-3pm. Tweens and Teens (6th grade and up) will have crafts, experiments, a treasure hunt and more. From 3-4 pm. the age 10 to 16 group can join the Drama Club and learn the ins and outs of drama and have fun practicing for a play in August. If you want to join the drama club, you’ll need to register by calling 748-3939.

The snowstorm in May surprised us all with its ferocity, but it made the Woodland Park Public Library reschedule the Espinosa Brothers Program to Thursday June 13 at 6:30pm. Dwight Haverkorn, a former Colorado Springs detective, presents this program based on Colorado’s first known

serial killers.

In other District news, Denise Gard and her magical dog, Sienna, will perform for storytime to help launch summer reading on Wednesday, June 5 at the Woodland Park Library at 10:15am and at the Florissant Library at 1pm.

Don’t miss the annual Book, Plant and Bake Sale at the Florissant Library and sponsored by the Friends of the Florissant Library on Friday, June 7, 10-2pm and Saturday, June 8, 10-1pm. Woodland Park Library’s big book sale happens June 21 (Noon-4pm), 22 (10-3pm), and 23 (1-3pm), with amazing bargains all three days, and a clearance sale on Sunday.

The Woodland Park Public Library is hosting the first performance of the new Ute Pass Chamber Players, Sunday, June 30, at 2 pm. Be the first to hear this wonderfully talented group!

Summer visitors who love to read and share books may want to consider joining one of the District Book Clubs. The Florissant Book Worms meet the third Wednesday of the month at the Florissant Public Library at 10:30am and are reading “Night Circus” by Erin Morgenstern. WP Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Woodland Park Public Library and is reading “The Analyst” by John Katzenbach. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions, in Florissant call Polly at 748-3939 and in Woodland Park call Rita at x132.

Good flows anticipated on the upper Arkansas

by Michael Seraphin

Outdoor enthusiasts looking to beat the heat of the summer season can enjoy rafting, kayaking, fishing, camping and other outdoor recreation activities in the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA).

“The spring fishing has been spectacular and now that temperatures are starting to climb we anticipate stellar flows for white-water boating well into the summer,” said AHRA Park Manager Rob White.

“Thanks to late spring snow storms, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District informed AHRA they will have 10,000 acre-feet of water available for the Voluntary Flow Management Program (VFMP) this summer,” said White. “This ensures the Upper Arkansas River good flows for rafting, kayaking and fishing.”

The VFMP is a cooperative program crafted in the 1990’s with help from Trout

Unlimited and the Arkansas Rivers Outfitters Association. Administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the VFMP provides water management guidelines that provide for whitewater flows in the Arkansas River for recreation users in the summer months, while also protecting and enhancing the fishery by establishing minimum flow guidelines throughout the rest of the year.

White advises rafting enthusiasts planning a whitewater trip on the Arkansas to pick a trained and experienced guide. The Arkansas River Outfitters Association has information to help the public select a white-water boating company.

Additional information on the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area is available at www.parks.state.co.us/Parks/ArkansasHeadwaters.

Coming soon: “Sharpen Your Writing Skills”

This class will be available free to the youth of Teller and Park Counties. Come to the Florissant Library July 20th from 10:30-1:30pm ready to learn how to sharpen your writing skills. Steven Veatch, adjunct professor with Emporia State University will offer techniques and processes to help put your thoughts, facts, and observations to paper. Paper, pens, snacks and beverages provided. Please call 686-7393 or email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com to register for this FREE class.”

Building a Healthy Immune System

by Carol Grieve and David Armstrong

In previous articles, I have discussed the importance of avoiding GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and eating organic food. This month, I have invited David Armstrong, M.Ac., of Listening Heart Medicines to co-author this article on the importance of building a healthy immune system. This is an extremely broad topic that can't be covered in one article but we will be discussing some of the key points we feel are most important in building or maintaining a strong immune system.

It is important to have a healthy immune system because we are continuously challenged with an onslaught of pollutants and microbes, not only in our food, but in our air, water and environment. These pollutants lower our resistance to disease and make us more susceptible to creating or continuing disease. Summer is an excellent time to increase your immune system and increase your immunity against the many viruses that you may be exposed to during the fall and winter months.

A good place to start in creating a strong immune system is in eating a diet that is free of chemicals and dangerous pesticides. Please see previous archived articles on GMOs and pesticides (www.utecountrynews.com). It is beneficial to avoid or eliminate all processed foods by purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables, organic chicken, wild-caught fish and grass-fed meats. Be cautious when buying dairy products as many have added hormones and if the product is from a conventionally-raised animal, it more than likely contains GMOs because of what it is fed. Look for organic dairy products or raw milk cheeses if your body can tolerate dairy. Again--know the source of your food. We recommend calling companies and asking questions about their products. We live in a world where you need to be your own food advocate and ask questions.

Hydration is essential in creating a healthy immune system. That being said, the quality of your drinking water is of utmost importance. A few options for quality water include well water (which you can have tested), distilled water (best to add trace minerals to distilled water), or water filtered by reverse-osmosis. Hydration supports your cells in utilizing nutrients and clearing waste products. In order to have your organs function properly, they need adequate hydration. The primary job of the large intestine is to absorb water and minerals. If you do not drink enough water you will have stress in your large intestine, likely have constipation and difficulty with elimination; this will decrease your immunity.

Stress is one of the factors that lowers your immune system. Deep breathing and relaxation, along with meditation, are wonderful for stress reduction. One way of breathing that we find beneficial is called balanced breathing or equalized breathing – inhaling and exhaling for the same amount of time. For example, breathe in to the count of 4 and breathe out to the count of 4. Deep breathing also increases the circulation of blood and lymphatic fluids. The increase in circulation of the blood helps get oxygen to all of the tissues, including the brain. The increase in circulation of the lymphatic fluid helps the lymphatic system more thoroughly filter toxins out of the blood.

The lymphatic system is composed of vessels, capillaries, lymph nodes and lymphatic fluid. The lymph system draws fluid in from the blood to filter out toxins, viruses, and bacteria. The lymph nodes act as processing stations that break down these toxins, viruses, and bacteria, which are then eliminated from the body. The lymphatic system also has specialized structures in the intestines called lacteals that absorb fat. Since the lymphatic system filters the blood, it is important that it has clear fluid that flows easily through its vessels. Therefore, to have the lymphatic system work well, we need to eat fats that are easily digestible and easily absorbed through the lymphatic lacteals. Fats that are in their natural state such as in olive oil, grape seed oil and flax oil are a few that work well with the lymphatic system. We suggest that you research your olive oil, as much of the olive oil sold in mainstream grocery stores is not truly 100% extra virgin olive oil. Olive oil is not regulated by the FDA and therefore there is much fraud in the making of olive oil. To find out more about true extra virgin olive oil, listen to Food Integrity Now's interview with Tom Mueller, author of "Extra Virginity: the Sublime and Scandalous World of Olive Oil" (<http://foodintegritynow.org/2012/07/25/tom-mueller-extra-virginity-the-sublime-and-scandalous-world-of-olive-oil>).

Another way to assist your lymphatic system is through exercise.

One of the best exercises to move lymphatic fluid is bouncing on an exercise ball or on a miniature or full size trampoline. Another way to assist the lymphatic system is to brush your skin with a dry, soft bristle body brush. Use the brush on your dry skin and brush every part of your skin toward your intestines.

Speaking of exercise--moving your body and having an exercise routine is another key factor in building your immune system. Find a way to exercise that works for you, whether it be walking, jogging, lifting weights, swimming, yoga, or Tai Chi to name just a few. We are all individuals and what works for one may not work for another. It could be that just taking a daily walk in nature is all you need. Start out slowly and make sure you do something you enjoy!

There are many vitamins and food supplements on the market. Taking supplements can be beneficial in creating and maintaining a healthy immune system. We recommend that you find someone who is knowledgeable about vitamins and see what works best for you. One product that we feel has much value is spirulina. BioLumina Spirulina is the premium spirulina. It has been scientifically proven that you can live on this product alone. It has so much nutritional value and is a whole food supplement that can assist in strengthening the immune system. It is also a radiation protectant and cleanser. Many are not aware of the amount of radiation in our atmosphere and oceans. To find out more about this product and whether it is right for you, go to www.newphoenixrising.com/beingwell.

In addition to your physical immune system, you have a mental immune system and an emotional immune system. Even if you are eating a nutrient-dense diet, your immune system can be compromised by unhealthy thoughts and emotions. It is important to be aware of your thought processes. It is beneficial to focus on what you want rather than focusing on what you do not want. Your thoughts influence your immune system and positive thoughts can have a beneficial effect on your immune system. While the mental immune system is very important, equally important is the emotional immune system. Understanding your emotions and expressing them in a respectful way can assist your immune system – whereas unexpressed emotions can adversely affect your immune system. It's important to "clean out the closet" of toxic thoughts and emotions. For example, if you have unresolved anger issues that you are not willing to look at, it's almost a guarantee that this anger will eventually turn into disease if it is not dealt with and released. It is valuable to have people in your life that support you in expressing your emotions in healthy ways. If you need assistance, find someone you trust to talk with or seek assistance from a professional.

Another key factor to having a healthy immune system is to do what you love to do. If you have a job that you dislike or a life that doesn't make you feel joyful, you will have problems sooner or later with a depleted immune system. Understand what it is you love to do and do it. Enjoy your life and celebrate it by doing something new and different every day.

Carol Grieve is a Certified Life Coach and Health and Wellness Coach. She is the host of an internet talk radio show, Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org). For more information on emotional or health-related issues or for food and wellness coaching, contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org or call 415-302-7100. David Armstrong is a licensed acupuncturist, herbalist, licensed massage therapist, and Tai Yi Practitioner. For more information about David, contact him at dwa777@msn.com or call Listening Heart Medicines at 719-684-3909.



Carol Grieve



David Armstrong

Critter Corner



Charlie &
Sadie-Julie/
Florissant



Foxes - David K. Johnson,
Arabian Acres/Florissant



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.

Cripple Creek Elk's Spring Dance a success

What better way to shake off the cold and welcome in spring than to attend the Cripple Creek Elk's Spring Dance. It was a night filled with food, music, live auction and lots of fun!

The festivities began at 7pm with a wide variety of excellent food. There were 21 baskets auctioned off by auctioneers Greg and Mike, with a lot of help from Cookie keeping track of each transaction. The variety of baskets was amazing, from plumbing supplies, to fine edibles, to all that your garden could use.

The event made over \$3,000 which will go toward maintenance at the lodge as well as charitable endeavors, such as the scholarship fund.

In fact, the Elks awarded two scholarships for seniors graduating this year. Emily Brooks Solomon was the Woodland Park High School recipient and Cale Brown was the Cripple Creek-Victor High School recipient.

Our community is grateful for all that the Cripple Creek Elks contributes to us; thank you!



One of 21 baskets auctioned at the Spring Dance

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Pebble Pups recognized at the Student Literary Awards

by Julie Shimon of Colorado Springs Pebble Pups

On May 16, 2013 two Pebble Pups, Caden Rothzeid and Jack Shimon, both in 2nd grade, were invited to attend the Student Literary Awards hosted by Colorado Humanities as finalists in the River of Words (ROW) poetry contest. Unlike all the other finalists who entered the contests through their schools, Caden and Jack have to thank their Pebble Pups teacher Steven Veatch for not only bringing ROW to their attention, but more importantly for inspiring their creativity through his Pebble Pup club. The reception was held at the Denver Public Library and honored poetry and art finalists from ROW as well as Letters for Literature. The reception began with an introduction by Maggie Coval, Director of Colorado Humanities, who was thrilled to “honor the finest student writing and art” out of hundreds of entries within Colorado alone. She said this year had some of the “most beautiful and memorable entries,” and after attending the reception and listening to 1st place finalists read their work I have to agree.

The River of Words judges for Colorado were Jim Ciletti, a master poet, and Justice Gregory Hobbs of the Colorado Supreme Court, who has been judging this contest for 12 years. Justice Hobbs was in attendance and hosted the poetry awards. The finalists in each category were called forward to receive an anthology of the work and then the 1st place winners read their poetry. Caden did an amazing job reading his 1st place poem in Category 1(K-2nd grade) called “The Volcano Poem.” He even got some giggles at the end with his final line “I love to learn about them, I don’t think they are a bore.” Jack took second place in this category with his poem “The Waldo Canyon Fire.” At the conclusion of the State Poetry Awards, Jack was called forward to read his poem; Jack was also a National Finalist. The State and National awards are judged independently by a completely different panel of Judges. This was a big honor for Jack. At the end of the awards presentation all the winners and families were invited to enjoy a nice reception and each winner received a cool certificate and gift bag.



River of Words honorees at the Denver Public Library

The Volcano Poem

By Caden Rothzeid

Pikes Peak Pebble Pups

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Unit

Volcanoes have lava that’s hot, hot, hot
I will not go near it, not, not, not

Volcanoes are filled with lots of gas
The lava takes up lots of mass

When it blows ashes go to the sky
I wonder how far they will fly?

Hawaii has Volcano National Park
I wonder if it’s scary in the dark?

Eruptions are hot, smoky and red
I like to read about them before I go to bed

The lava oozes out nice, smooth, and burning hot
I wonder if it will destroy a little or a lot?

Volcanoes are dangerous and I want to learn more
I love to learn about them, I don’t think they are a bore



Jack Shimon (left) and Caden Rothzeid (right)

The Waldo Canyon Fire

Pikes Peak Pebble Pups

Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Unit

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 with diminishing syllables. 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 not required.



1st Place winner Category 1, Caden Rothzeid with Justice Hobbs

About the author: Caden Rothzeid

Caden is a 7 year-old 2nd grader at Explorer Elementary School. He loves learning about all kinds of rocks, fossils and minerals. He also enjoys learning about volcanoes, dinosaurs, planets and insects. A favorite pastime is examining things through his microscope. Caden is an expert builder of legos, electronic circuits, and K-Nex. He is very good at researching topics of interest on the Internet. He also has a fascination with taking apart Apple computers, iPhones and iDevices. He loves to read, be a Boy Scout, and play with his friends.



2nd place winner Category 1 and National Finalist, Jack Shimon with Justice Hobbs

About the author: Jack Shimon

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 is 7-years old and is in 2nd grade at school. Jack brings his dog Comet to all Pebble Pup meetings. Comet is the mascot for the Pebble Pups.

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Lee Taylor (top left) was the BAH emcee. Chuck Mahoney (top center) reported on the Saddle Club progress. Bob Schleicher (top right) spoke about the new Forest Ridge Senior Living Center. Teller County Commissioner Marc Dettenrieder (bottom right) provided a county update. And Karen-Casey-Svetich reviewed CP services.

Divide Chamber and Community Partnership host Business-After-Hours

by David Martinek
photos by David Martinek

Once winter finally gives up the fight and spring has more than a toe-hold on the weather, it's time for the Divide Chamber of Commerce to sponsor their annual business-after-hours (BAH).

The chamber and the Community Partnership Family Resource Center jointly hosted a well-attended BAH at the Community Partnership offices at 11115 West Highway 24, Suite 2-D, in Divide on Wednesday afternoon, May 22.

The Divide Chamber regularly holds events throughout the year for the benefit of the local community, such as the annual Divide Kite Flight and Divide Wide Yard Sale in August, its Christmas in Divide craft fair in November, and their annual member-wide Christmas party.

The chamber collaborated with Community Partnership again this year to celebrate spring and apprise the community on important themes, like the progress of the Saddle Clubs plans for an equestrian center in Divide, a report from the Board of County Commissioners, an update on a new planned senior living center on the hospital campus in Woodland Park, as well as a comprehensive overview of all the services provided by Community Partnership.

Lee Taylor, financial advisor for Edward Jones in Woodland Park and a member of the chamber board of directors, served as emcee and introduced all the speakers, after the crowd of over 60 folks had enjoyed refreshments provided by Community Partnership. Door prizes were awarded to end the evening.

Taylor's first speaker was Chuck Mahoney, a member of the Saddle Club board of directors and former club president. Mahoney's presentation was brief and to the point - after more the five years of planning, the Saddle Club was poised "at the finish line" to break ground this summer on their new equestrian center on land purchased from Pete Kuyper and the Maytag ranch just south of Divide along State Highway 67. The Saddle Club website (WPSaddleClub.com) provides further information about the club's plans as well as opportunities to join the organization and get involved.

Following Mahoney, Bob Schleicher, developer of the new Forest Ridge Senior Living Center described their plans to also begin construction this summer on the Pikes Peak Regional Hospital campus. Once completed, by early 2015, the complex will provide 80 senior living units arranged in eight 10-unit communities. Four dining areas and a central nurses' station will provide quick

and convenient services to the residents. The center is estimated to employ from 80 to a 100 staff. Schleicher's offices are located in the Professional Building in Woodland Park, 400 West Midland Avenue, Suite 201, where a mockup of the units is available for preview by interested or potential center residents. For more information regarding the future Forest Ridge Senior Living Center, call 719-686-8140.

Teller County Commissioner, Marc Dettenrieder, spoke to the crowd about the county's successful lobbying effort during this year's legislative session to prevent a change in the gambling laws in Colorado, which were renewed, and which would have cost the country over \$2 million in revenue. He also answered questions about county finances and a joint effort by Teller and El Paso counties to safely keep U.S. Highway 24 through Ute Pass open this summer in light of any future forest fires or flash floods caused by runoff from the burn area of the Waldo Canyon fire. "It may sound strange, but we're going to run snow plows up and down Ute Pass this summer to monitor and report conditions and be ready to respond to adverse situations, like mud slides," said Dettenrieder.

Lastly, Karen-Casey-Svetich, Executive Director of the Community Partnership Family Resource Center (the "CP"), welcomed all the BAH guests, introduced her staff, volunteers and board members that were present and invited everyone to review the many services provided by the organization, including: adult basic education to prepare folks for G.E.D. exams and workforce training; programs focused on early child development, and parenting; parenting workshops; home visits to screen for health, nutrition and family support needs; programs designed to education residents on making healthy choices, on proper exercise, cooking methods, as well as access to community gardens. The CP also provides assistance to residents to obtain healthcare benefits or to assist with other needs, such as getting Medicaid, access to emergency services, help with utility bills and other health care support. For more information about Community Partnership and the many services they provide, call 719-686-0705, or go online at CPTeller.org.

"We always look forward to our spring business-after-hours," said chamber president, Lisa Lee, "because it gives us a chance to inform our members and local residents about the good things and good people that exist in and around the Divide Community."

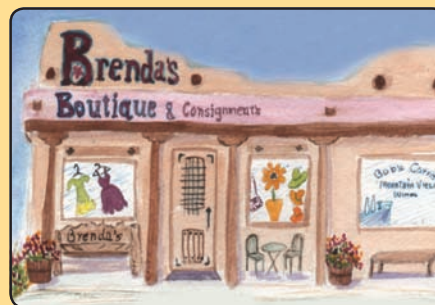
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Mark Griffith, Stompin' George, Lissa Hanner and Super Chuck and entertain the crowd

Nighthawk Ranch fundraiser at Freshwater Saloon

by Kathy Hansen
photos by Jeff Hansen

It is amazing what can happen when you combine an intention to help kids recovering from cancer with some talented musicians, some good food, and many items to auction. The fundraiser at Freshwater in Guffey benefitting Nighthawk Ranch was a fun afternoon for all who attended.

Music was provided throughout the day by several musicians. Lissa Hanner and her brother Super Chuck played throughout the day. Mark Griffith and Stompin George joined in to change it up. Special thanks to Super Chuck for donating his time for set up.

This was a true community event. Lissa shared the stage with Alyssa Selders, 11 year old Guffey music fan. They wowed the crowd with several duets. It is no surprise that Alyssa has a goal of someday being on American Idol. After all, there is video of Alyssa singing her heart out at the tender age of two. Way to go Lissa and Alyssa! We look forward to more duets in the future.

Tom and Dorothy Evans are excited to welcome four camps this year with a total of 27 children who are recovering from cancer. "These kids talk to each other and share their struggles of recovery. They understand they are not alone and they learn from each other. The bonding is incredible. It is amazing to see how these kids transform



Tom and Dorothy Evans of Nighthawk Ranch

from being patients to kids again, in a single week," said Tom. One can see the conviction in Tom's face as he shares how much the kids benefit.

A cancer survivor himself, Tom is well aware of the many stresses this journey can take on an individual and a family. Tom and Dorothy intend to provide a safe place where kids can just be kids for a week. They learn to care for the horses they ride, help with chores and cleanup, and have some time to connect with each other. They are not allowed to have any media while at camp.

Tom and Dorothy get professional assistance not only from the medical staff but also from Dunn's Horse & Mule as Justin Dunn has helped out each year. Justin's expertise with handling the horses helps to instill the confidence the kids need after being in such a fragile condition for so long. It really helps them to look into the eyes of the expert that tells them, "Yes, you CAN get on this horse and I'm here to help you on." By the end of the week, they are mounting on their own.

It is Tom and Dorothy's dream to continue to build this camp. Perhaps one day, they can retire from their traditional positions of employment to run Nighthawk Ranch on a full time basis. There is no question the need is there. If you would like to make a contribution to Nighthawk Ranch, please visit www.nighthawkcranchcolorado.org



Lissa shared the stage with 11 year old Guffey music fan, Alyssa Selders.

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Keeping Quilt Project

by Renee Caldwell

The Florissant Grange invited the Lake George Charter School to join us for the "Keeping Quilt" Project. Grange members Keith and Leisha Lanz provided the book The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco to each class. Grange Secretary, Renee Caldwell visited the class rooms and invited them to read the book as a class, then join us at the Grange to sew their own "Keeping Quilt" wall hanging. On April 27th the students, several quilters, teachers, parents and grangers gathered to complete the project. This was a great day spent with the students making beautiful quilted wall hangings.

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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

ALMA
7 Alma's Only Bar – live music by Malai Llama
14 Alma's Only Bar – live music by Mark's Midnight Carnival Show
21 Alma's Only Bar – live music by Salem
28 Alma's Only Bar – live music by Synapse
For more info call 719-836-2214

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OFFERINGS
Healthier Living Program contact Kathy at 719-686-0705, ext. 1 or Kathy@cpteller.org
Cooking Matters for Adults at Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation - FREE six week class Thursday evenings June 6, 13, 20, 17, July 11, 18, 5:30-7:30pm.

Healthier Living Colorado June – July, location to be decided – find balance to manage life, illness, support others. Collaboration with Teller County Public Health.
Try out your green thumb and enjoy fresh produce – Community Gardens – Cripple Creek, Divide, Woodland Park and more!
Free adult exercise classes! Yoga, Zumba and more
Parenting Tools! Ahhhh...get extra support and tools to add to your parenting toolbox. Parents as Teachers – right in your own home. Contact Jamie at 719-686-0705, ext. 3
Group workshops for various stages of child development, including teens. New workshops upcoming for families involved with divorce! Contact Jen at 719-686-0705

Play Group contact Michelle at 719-686-0705, ext. 3 or Michelle@cpteller.org
Lots of great summer activities – field trips, parent/child interaction time, parenting support and resources!
Need help with Health Coverage? – contact Sady at 719-686-0705, ext. 1 Assistance with Medicaid, CHP+ and advocacy for health resources
Need your GED? contact Judy at 719-686-0705, ext. 2

CRIPPLE CREEK COWBOY GATHERING
14-16 Join us for the 2013 Cripple Creek Cowboy Gathering. Don't miss the American Chuck Wagon Association's Chuckwagon Cookoff. We are thrilled to announce the Colorado Pro Rodeo Association (CPRA) sanctioned Cripple Creek Rodeo, an exciting event that offers fierce competition, western entertainment, and prize purses worth fighting for! Also enjoy the Western Street Dance and the Texas Longhorn Steer Performances. For more information, see www.visitcripplecreek.com

CRIPPLE CREEK HERITAGE CENTER
29 & 30 the Help U Club will be having a bake sale at the Heritage Center in Cripple Creek during Donkey Derby Days. Times are 9 am-4 pm. All fund raising goes to help those in our community who need help.

CRIPPLE CREEK DISTRICT MUSEUM
14 60th Anniversary of The Cripple Creek District Museum
14-15 Cripple Creek Cowboy Gathering/Chuckwagon Cookoff/Rodeo
16 Rodeo Continues, Father's Day (Fathers free admission)
23 - 30 Donkey Derby Days
28 - July 7 Western Art Show at Heritage Center
28 - July 7 Western Literature Festival at Cripple Creek District Museum

DIVIDE LITTLE CHAPEL ON THE HILL
10 Food Pantry 4:30-6:30pm Call 719-322-7610 for more info.
24 Food Pantry 4:30-6:30pm Call 719-322-7610 for more info.

FAIRPLAY
21 & 22 Seventh South Park Symposium at the Fairplay Valiton Hotel sponsored by Pikes Peak Historical Society and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds National

Monument. Friday's presentations are about Fairplay history and Saturday's presentations are about Park County's Natural Resources. The information flows from 9am – 5pm. For a specific schedule call Celinda or Harold at 719-748-3562.

FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS
15 Events: Meet the Scientists held twice: 10-noon and 1-3pm. Tour the paleontology center from 10-2pm. Behind the scenes tour of the building's technology from 10-2pm. Junior Ranger Concert featuring Ranger Jeff Wolin at noon. Light refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds from 10-3pm. Hikes will include: Ranger Hikes, Hornbek Homestead, Fossil Demonstration Lab and Demonstration Excavation Sites.
16 Tours of the paleontology center from 11-1pm. Behind the scenes tour of the building's technology from 10-2pm. Light refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds from 10-3pm. Hikes will include: Ranger Hikes, Hornbek Homestead, Fossil Demonstration Lab and Demonstration Excavation Sites.

FLORISSANT GRANGE
1 Come have Country Breakfast with us and shop at the Annual Flea Market June 1st. Breakfast begins at 7 am and lasts until 11am. The Flea Market also begins at 7 am and goes until 3pm. Come for eating and shopping; a great combination, or clean out your closets and set up a table. You know that someone's junk could be your treasure. Call 748-0358 for more information.
8 The next Glass Paining Class will be June 8th. We had some weather on March 23rd, but some of us came out anyway. For those who couldn't come, join us June 8th. Call 748-0358 for more information.
15 The next Pine Needle Basket Making Class will be June 15th. This is a change from the last reported date of June 8th so mark your calendars

and come learn to make these beautiful baskets, or come work on one you have in progress. Call 748-0358 for more information.

Mark your Calendar: HERITAGE DAY IS JULY 27th. Start the day with Pancake Breakfast at the Fire House. Then make your way to the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, Costello Street Coffee House, Florissant Cemetery, and most importantly, The Old School House. At the School house (The Florissant Grange) you will have: Live Music on the Bandstand all day featuring: The Elbert Sisters, Mel March, Rich Currier and more. Food: starting at 10am we will be serving burgers, brats and dogs. A meal that includes chips, a drink and a cookie is only a suggested donation of \$5.00. Vendors: Everything from hand-made Crafts to Miche Purses and emergency food. Cowboy Poets, Magicians: you don't want to miss these shows featuring Susie Knight and Dwyane Faux; Historic Readings and reenactments by local well known ladies and gentlemen of the Florissant Area. Buckboard Rides by MLazyC Ranch from 10am – noon. Gold Camp Victorian Society creating great ambiance with their beautiful historic attire. 20 Years On The Trail Productions: Gun shoot outs and a historic play. Children's play and activities all day. Horse-shoes all day. Ice Cream Social all day. Sheriff's Posse: to help us out with traffic and more.
Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck.
Yoga - classes are held each Monday evening at 5:30 and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Call Debbie at 748-3678 for more information.

HARTSEL
8 Harvest Center Food Pantry noon – 1pm Call 719-395-0895 for more info.

LAKE GEORGE ARENA
1, 15, 29 Gymkhana 9 am L G Arena

LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY CENTER
18 Gem Club Youth Program 6 PM

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY ONGOING
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.

UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
8 The Ute Pass Historical Society offers free public tours (donations gratefully accepted!) of History Park the second Saturday of the month from May through September. The tours are from 10 am to 1 pm, starting at the Museum Center, 231 E. Henrietta Avenue in Woodland Park. The Museum Center building is located next to the Woodland Park Public Library. A historic walking tour of Woodland Park meets at 10:30 am. Please contact UPHS at 719.686.7512 or email uphs@peakinter.net for more information. All tours are weather permitting.

VICTOR
22 & 23 Victor Gem & Mineral Show. For more info call 719-689-2675 or stefg@victorcolorado.com

WOODLAND PARK DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER
8 Outdoor Family Fun Day - Come from 11am-3pm and

join DRC for a day of fun and food! Wolves, gold panning, chalk painting, shale splitting, face painting, balloons & kindermusik are among the many events available. Our local Fire Department will be here with their fire truck as well as our local Police with a roll-over simulator. Check our website for further details <http://www.rmdrc.com>
16 **Father's Day** - Bring Dad to the Dinosaurs! Fathers are FREE with 1 paid regular adult or child admission from 10am – 4pm.

WOODLAND PARK
3 Woodland Music Series Benefit Golf Tournament 8:30am Shotgun Start. Entry Fees: \$85.00/player or \$320 for a 4 person team. Format: four person scramble (with handicap). Sign up with your own foursome or as an individual (we'll team you up). Submit established individual handicap(s) or average score(s) for all team members - we'll compute the team handicap. Cash prizes and other event extras. Awards lunch following play. All proceeds go to the production of The Woodland Music Series, a 501(c)3 organization.

4 The Mountain Top Cycling Club invites you to PARA-DOX Brewery on June 4th for our monthly meeting. Social Time is from 6 to 7pm. General meeting starts at 7pm until about 8pm. This meeting is special in that we are having a Pot Luck (bring what you would like to share) to snack on during the meeting. PARA-DOX was our title sponsor the June 22, Experience Ride. See jersey design on the Mountain Top Cycling Club website. Our guest speakers will be Linda and Greg Kilpela from Young Living Independent Distributors. They will share how using oils will improve your recovery time. Tim Halfpop will be on hand from Old Town Bike Shop. Tim will be sharing about the upcoming Starlight Spectacular Ride. Come to the meeting and have a great time, maybe share a story about your latest ride. Door prizes and more.

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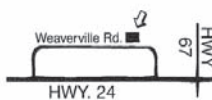
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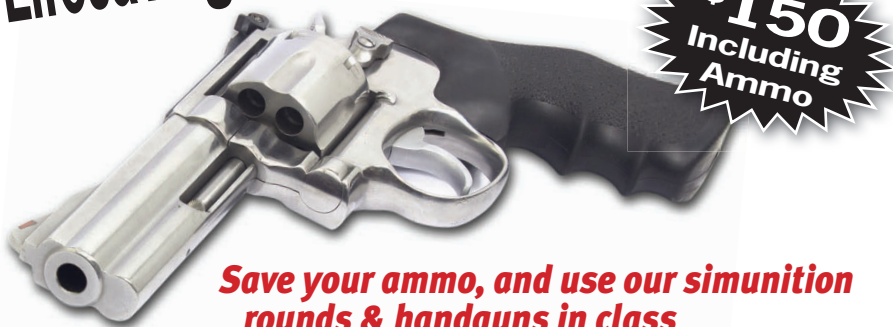
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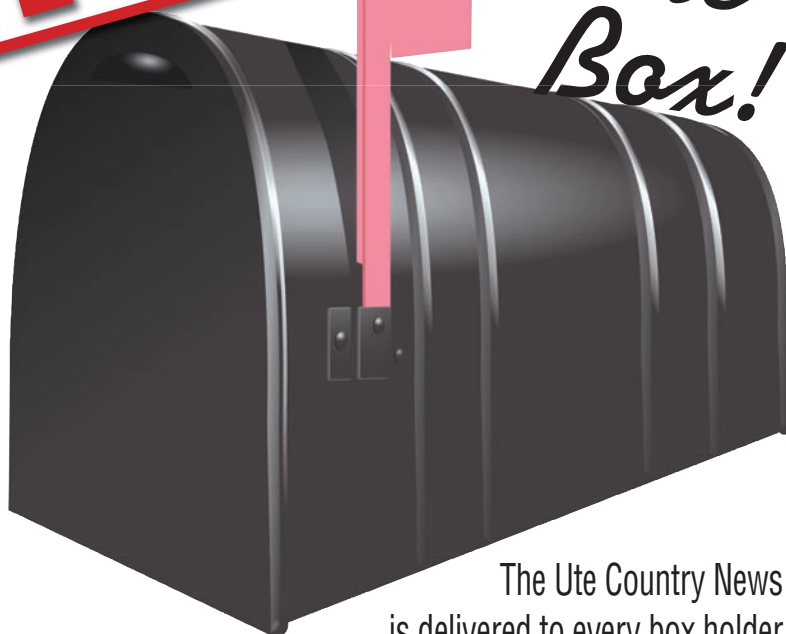
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