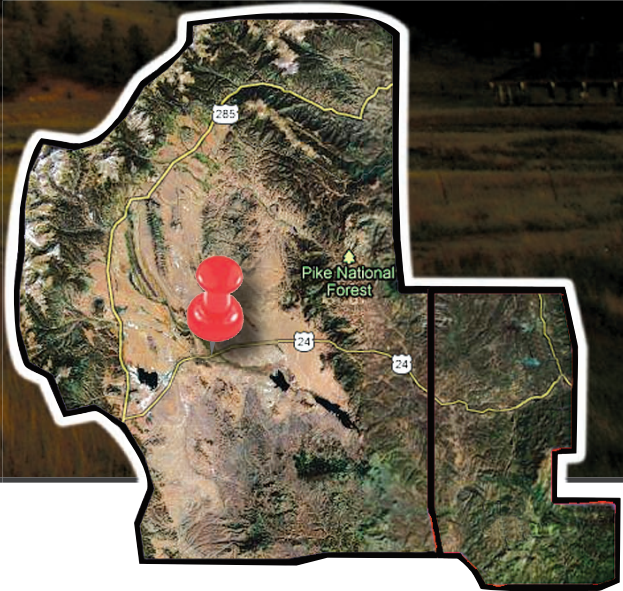


FREE

Welcome to Ute Country

April is a promise
that May is bound to keep.
— Hal Borland



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On Deck

This has been an exciting issue to put together. We are grateful for our readership response; keep that feedback coming! We receive a wide variety of submissions and do our best to fit everything in. There are times we must make the difficult decision on what to cut and what to hold off until next time. We hope you are pleased with the result.

April showers bring May flowers; let's hope! We are enduring a drought more severe than any of us expected. Adaptation will be the key to survival. Minor changes in behavior can save gallons of water and may literally save our lives because water is the second most important resource for human survival (see "Becoming a water wise westerner" for the first).

Send in a way of saving water that is not in the article and we will publish it next month. Call 719-686-7393 or email utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com Special thanks to the following for water-saving tips or related in this issue: Ashcraft Family, Barb, Beth, Carmen, Amy of CUSP, Jim, Julie, Maude, and Michael.

April 22nd is Earth Day and Bani Kurth has taken time out of a very busy schedule to wish Happy Birthday to Mother Earth. Welcome back, Bani, or at least for April. We continue to wish Bani well on her other endeavors.

Rainey Hall took the photo of the chemtrail in Bani's article. She is expanding her talents in many directions. She's a great writer, historian, photographer, and also will help you get your ad in our paper (719)748-3377, especially west of Woodland Park. Rainey is easy to talk to and has a great sense of humor. We're glad to have her on our team!

We also wish to welcome Christine Ford, aka, "Ghostwriter in the Sky." Christine is keeping us posted on activities of the paranormal flavor in Teller and Park Counties. If you have a spine-tingling story or some activity that is beyond rational explanation, feel free to give Christine a call 719-963-0081.

We are hoping by the time you are reading this our website will be up and running. It's funny how cyberspace seems to run on different time than the other space-time continuum. In any case, the web surfer will be able to read not only our current month's issue, but also peruse the archives to read your favorite past issues. Advertisers will be able to download rate sheets and contact their local representatives: Bill of Woodland Park and East (719-351-0549) or Rainey selling west of Woodland Park (719) 748-3377. We hope to tell you more in May.

Mr. Spaz is already looking forward to new photos to choose from for Critter Corner. Please send them in soon. March was a long month and he ready for May's choices. Email your cute critter pictures to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A special thanks to all listed here for their professional work and time to make this possible.



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AmeriCorps crew helps prevent, mitigate wildfire threats

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Amidst the unpredictable weather of a Colorado winter, a group of young sawyers has been hard at work in the forest. AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) crewmembers assisted the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) with forest health initiatives from February 8th through March 22nd.

While CUSP's expert field crew typically works through much of the winter on forest projects, volunteer help is usually limited due to inclement weather and work in hard-to-reach areas. This winter, however, CUSP was fortunate to get a helping hand from an enthusiastic and hardworking NCCC crew of nine. With post-fire flooding impacts from the Waldo Canyon Fire looming and another year of drought looking all but certain, the extra help could not have come at a better time.

The NCCC crew started in early February with a full day of safety training led by CUSP staff. Neal Vercler, NCCC crew leader, was grateful for the emphasis on safety while crewmembers learned to wield their power saws over the next seven weeks. Vercler and his crew honed their saw and teamwork skills as they worked in the starkly different environments of crowded, green forests and charred, black forests.

Within the unburned forest, CUSP and NCCC crews worked at the Catamount Center west of Woodland Park. The crews worked in

the green forest with a focus on catastrophic wildfire prevention. Sawyers strategically felled trees to open up densely populated forests and remove fuels. Low-lying brush was also targeted and cleared out. Spacing trees and removing ladder fuels that enable fires to become extremely hot crown fires is crucial to promote healthy forest ecology.

All said and done, the crew cleared about eight acres of brush and thinned about three acres at the Catamount Center.

These treatments, as part of landscape-scale efforts, are important to slow wildfires, reduce fire intensity, and protect communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface - areas where residential structures and forests meet.

The NCCC crew also experienced the challenges of restoration in a post-fire environment. Working in the recent burn scar of the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire, the NCCC crew discovered what it meant to get truly dirty. Ash-covered from head to toe as a result of working among charred trees, crewmembers carefully identified and felled unstable trees. These trees were then put to good use as erosion control structures along mountainsides.

The crew worked in several areas throughout the burn, on both public and



Crew of AmeriCorps volunteers after a hard day's labor.

private lands. Helping out at Glen Eyrie on the western edge of Colorado Springs, the crew felled trees that will be used as erosion control structures during future workdays.

Out at Flying W Ranch, another business CUSP has been working with on post-fire restoration, the NCCC crew helped fell additional trees. Many of these once-hazardous trees were then installed as log erosion barriers (LEB) with the help of students from Doane College. Twenty-six students from Doane College, located in eastern Nebraska, dedicated their spring break to working with CUSP to assist communities affected by the Waldo Canyon Fire. These students, working in the burn area from March 18th to 23rd, joined forces with the NCCC crew to install 40 LEBs along the steep inclines surrounding Flying W Ranch. Citing the work at Flying W as his favorite project, Vercler was amazed at the sheer amount of work the crew was able to accomplish and gratified by seeing the progress and impact as they worked to stabilize the high-elevation hillslopes.

The erosion control work at Glen Eyrie and Flying W Ranch will benefit more than these individual properties. As a result of this work, surrounding and lower-elevation infrastructure, homes, schools, and businesses will be better protected from flooding and erosion impacts when the spring and summer rainstorms hit barren hillslopes.

Traveling farther west into the forest, the NCCC crew also went to work on Forest Service land in Northfield Gulch. CUSP first began working in Northfield Gulch last October to stabilize hillslopes in an effort to slow flood flows. NCCC crewmembers continued this work by felling trees and, in cooperation with Doane College students, using these trunks to install about 61 LEBs.

With approximately 18 acres in the burn treated by felling trees and inserting blackened trunks to slow erosion on hillsides, the NCCC crew, aided by the Doane College students, offered a tremendous service to communities across the Pikes Peak region. In return, the NCCC crew learned hands-on about preventive measures, saw the impact their work had on the environment and the community, and enjoyed the Colorado Springs area. Crewmembers met homeowners benefitting from the crew's work and began to understand the devastating impacts imminent flooding could have on lives, homes, and vital infrastructure. In their free time, crewmembers further connected with the community by volunteering and exploring Colorado Springs.

Additionally, to welcome and thank the crewmembers, the Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau worked with local partners to provide the NCCC crew with discounted and free passes for activities across the Pikes Peak region, including those at: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Adventures Out West, ANA Money Museum, Brunswick Zone, City Rock, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, McAllister House Museum, Michael Garman Studios Magic Town, Pikes Peak - America's Mountain Highway, Pikes Peak Historical Street Railway Foundation, Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, and the Space Foundation Visitors Center.

After logging approximately 1,860 volunteer hours during an "amazing experience working with CUSP", Vercler and his team will continue working on a variety of service-learning projects throughout the state of Colorado. The work these teams do on CUSP projects becomes even more impressive because CUSP is able to leverage NCCC volunteer hours as in-kind matches for state and foundation grants, amplifying their impact and community benefit.

As this NCCC saw crew moves on, CUSP looks forward to welcoming more NCCC members in April and May to continue making progress on Waldo Canyon Fire rehabilitation and forest health projects.



Felling a tree on a slope calls for a firm stance.

2013 Midland Days Symposium



Mel McFarland presenting an overview of the Midland Terminal Railroad (left), and retired CS police officer talking about a Wells Fargo robbery that involved the Midland (right).



Fifty-six "Midland" railroad enthusiasts attended the 4th annual Midland Days Symposium on Saturday, March 30, at the John Wesley Ranch in Divide. "Midland Days" Symposium is a fund-raising event co-sponsored by the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition and the Divide Chamber of Commerce. Proceeds support the Midland Depot at Divide Preservation Project.

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In case of haunting.....

by Christine Ford

If you're hearing strange bumps in the night, or shadows are crossing your path here in Teller or Park County, who you gonna call for help?

It turns out there is a thriving community of paranormal experts in the area, with the largest groups located in Colorado Springs and Denver. For instance, Rich Horn runs Colorado ParaTech, a paranormal group whose mission, according to their website, "is to provide factual and realistic answers based on hard evidence." They also have a paranormal investigation equipment manufacturing division, designing and building equipment specifically to capture proof positive that the "other side" exists.

"Haunted Like Me", in Manitou Springs, might be a good place to meet some of the investigators working in the Colorado area. "Haunted Like Me" is a "meet up" group (www.MeetUp.com) that allows people the opportunity to share their personal experiences with the paranormal. It currently has 35 members. Group founder, Lu Velazquez, also publishes a monthly newspaper called "The Paranormal Inquiry" and has written a book, "The Down and Dirty on Paranormal Investigators", to assist people in finding the right investigator. See sidebar for contact info on these groups.

For those who are looking for an investigator to come to their home or business in Teller or Park County, one local resource is "Graves Paranormal Investigations and Research." This family owned and run business consists of Lain and Tonya Graves of Lake George, CO, frequently joined by Tonya's teenaged children and occasionally by her mother.

The couple met in 2011, in a free online dating site called PlentyofFish.com. They shared an interest in the paranormal going back to childhood for both of them. Lain is a Colorado native who graduated from high school in Fountain and has worked for CDOT at various locations around the state, including the paranormally famous Evergreen Cemetery. He began to attend meetings of a paranormal group and join in investigations in 1999. "I pretty much lived in the Ray Hotel

in Naturita," says Lain of one of his adventures around the state. "It was a giant stewpot of paranormal activity." He says he frequently saw shadow men which he attributes to the area's "rich history of mining and murder."

Tonya Graves is also a Colorado native, from a pioneer Lake George family, the Quist's. It was while living in her mother's home in the Indian Creek subdivision that she had a close encounter with a tall shadow figure that rushed up to her from behind. She stopped her planned errand into town and spent time investigating, only to find the road blocked by a fresh landslide when she did venture out. Co-incidence, she wondered, or was it a family member delaying her in order to avoid the landslide? Her mother would frequently see a low shadow figure near her bed, which they believe to



Courtney with orbs (or light anomalies) surrounding her at the Onaledge Bed and Breakfast.

be a family dog buried on the property. The activity continues to this day.

Together, "our level of interest just kept growing," says Tonya. They have investigated South Park City in Fairplay, a collection of historic buildings from around the county moved onto one site as a museum. There they witnessed objects in a sealed glass room that had been moved, as well as a rocking chair rocking on its own. "It's packed head to toe with 'paranormalphania'," said Tonya, inventing a word on the spot which seems to be quite appropriate, referring to objects which have paranormal energy attached to them. The couple agrees; Fairplay has a large amount of activity.

In fact, Lain Graves has a theory that there is something called a "lay line" connecting Fairplay, Hartsel, Lake George, Florissant and Manitou Springs, possibly co-inciding with a geologic structure called the Florissant Lineament. The Graves gave a presentation on this topic at the February Chautauqua put on by the Pikes Peak Historical Society at the Florissant Library. Sixty-seven attendees, the largest turn-out for a Chautauqua so far, shows the high level of interest in the community on this subject. The Graves will speak again at the Chautauqua on June 23rd at 2:00 pm at the Florissant Library. They will also be featured, along with Lu Velazquez of the Paranormal Inquiry, on "After Dark with Dr. Mike" a radio show, on Friday, April 5th.

The show runs from 10 to midnight, Monday through Friday, on Pueblo Talk Radio, 1480 am and 93.9 fm.

The Graves have also investigated Miramont Castle and the Onaledge B and B at The Red Crag Estate in Manitou, among others. Like other groups in the area, Graves does not charge for its investigation services. Any money they make comes from ads on their YouTube account, where they post videos with the clients consent.

Once asked to investigate a location, the team swings into action. The first step in any investigation is the history of the location, says Lain. The physical location is thoroughly examined, as many real world answers exist for what can appear to be paranormal, he explains. For instance, a faulty furnace, leaking CO2, can cause hallucinations. So can high electrical fields like those generated by power lines.

Once research is finished, the team moves in with their equipment to document the activity. Graves Paranormal is equipped with state of the art ghost hunting equipment, thanks in part to Rich Horn of Colorado ParaTech, who designs and builds a specialty item called a ghost light. In addition to this tool, which is used for filming in total darkness with night vision cameras, the Graves use digital recorders to pick up EVP's or electronic voice phenomenon, an infrared digital video recorder, a K-2 meter, which picks up electromagnetic fields or EMF, and an E meter, which picks up electrical fields in the air. "You have to know your equipment and what it can do," says Lain, in order to de-bunk, or disprove, a claim of paranormal activity.

Once they have documented the activity, the team takes steps to halt it, if that is what the client requests. "The big question we are hearing from people, is 'How can I learn to live with it?' It's the cool thing now," says Lain.

Graves, who describes himself as a non-denominational minister, specializes in ridding homes of paranormal activity. "Most of the time, you can get it to quit," says Graves, whose choice of ghost-ridding tools depends on the clients own religion or belief system, or sometimes on the belief system of the paranormal activity in question. He refers to a haunting on a local ranch that ceased when the identified entities were provided with headstones.

Tonya's teenagers frequently join in these investigations. "They're my two best investigators," says Lain Graves, who gave them ghost hunting kits for Christmas last year. "How often do kids get a chance to prove their parent's wrong?" The teenagers frequently participate in trips to the Florissant Cemetery, where they have successfully used their digital voice recorders and video equipment to capture voices and orbs.

"She's the biggest scare-dy cat at movies,



Investigation at the Florissant cemetery.

but she's out there with her voice recorder in the cemetery, totally professional," says Tonya of her daughter, Courtney, age 13. Son, Joe, 16, especially enjoys debunking, or finding real world answers for supposedly paranormal events, and he frequently has his friends over to participate in sessions.

Whether you want to document evidence of paranormal activity, or stop it in your home or business in Teller or Park County, Graves Paranormal Investigations and Research is just one of the many local resources available. For more information on when and where groups meet, please see the sidebar entitled, "Paranormal Activities".

If you have a haunting story you would like to share, please contact Ghost Writer in the Sky at 719-963-0081.

Paranormal activity in our area

This is only a partial list of the many groups and activities in our area:

Colorado ParaTech
www.coloradoparatech.com
719-203-4651

Colorado Springs Ghost Hunters
www.csghosthunters.com
719-646-0653

www Wednesday's Paranormal Investigations.com
www.pikespeakghosthunters.com
719-474-9682

Mountain Valley Paranormal Society, Victor, CO
www.simplyghost.com, an extensive, information packed website!

Rocky Mountain Paranormal Research Society
www.rockymountainparanormal.com
1-720-201-1234

Haunted Like Me
www.meetup.com/hauntedlikeme
720-251-3702

The Paranormal Inquiry
www.paranormalinquiry.com
720-251-3702

Graves Paranormal Investigations and Research
www.gravesparanormal.net
719-748-1131



A shadow figure caught at the Miramont Castle.

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The Slowpoke

by David Martinek

(For visitors coming to central Colorado, you may often find yourself behind a slow moving vehicle, or a line of them, on one of our many two-lane highways. If you do, don't forget to appreciate the gift of nature appearing just beyond your car windows.)

There's a slowpoke up ahead. After a restful night somewhere along Ute Pass, you wake up to a sunny mountain morning and drive west on U.S. Highway 24 out of Woodland Park, zipping up the four-lane highway towards Divide, barely aware of the splendid view of Pikes Peak on your left – a scene preserved especially for your pleasure by years of conservation easements.

At the Ute Pass summit in Divide, the highway narrows to two lanes and that is where the slowdown begins. A rusty old pickup truck towing a small camper trailer is doing about 40 miles per hour (the speed limit is 60); he is seemingly in no hurry. As a result, you and the nine cars ahead of you, aren't hurrying either.

Scenes like this are common during "spring and summer season" in Colorado. Lines of cars appear on just about every major two-lane highway in the Rockies, all proceeding at the mercy of the one leading the pack.

Now you're frustrated. You're on vacation with only a few days left. There are places you want to be and things you want to see, and this slowpoke is holding you up!

As the road gently falls down into Cougar Canyon and along the swampy wetlands along Twin Creek, a beaver swims a tree branch across a pool; you seem to notice that, but only briefly. Swinging around the Signal Rock area you behold and appreciate the unique formations on both sides of the road, like "frog rock" and "dome rock" - a veritable garden of boulders all delicately balanced on one another. Before long you are in Floris-

sant. The line of cars is still a line.

The pastures on the left beyond the fire station in Florissant stay moist along the confluence of Grape and Twin creeks; wildlife can often be seen. Off in the distance you spy a small herd of mule deer tensely feeding in the grass, ready to scamper off at the slightest provocation – their kangaroo-like ears pointed to the sky and their white tails flickering. You wonder if you might have missed that sight had you been going 60 with the wind in your hair.

Out your right window a coyote lopes across grasslands as you pass from Teller into Park County. You're seeing things you've only heard about and now the slow line of cars up ahead might not be bothering you half as much.

West on U. S. 24 at Lake George the South Platte River valley opens up as the waters curve through the meadows like a snake. You mentally picture yourself wading in the middle of the river, fly rod in hand, taunting the trout with your lures. Farther west, the road weaves back and forth, and around this curve and that, past the Round Mountain Campground and the entrance to the Tarryall State Wildlife Area, eventually crossing into BLM land and the Pike National Forest leading towards Wilkerson Pass.

At the crest of the Pass you find yourself right behind that rusty old pickup. All the other cars in the line have managed to go around him. Somehow, you are no longer in a hurry to do the same.

Passing the rest area at the summit of Wilkerson Pass and around the turns, a whole new vista meets you in the morning sun. The highway descends sharply to become a thin ribbon running down through a 30-mile expanse that is the South Park valley. The Sangre de Cristo mountain range sparkles clearly in the distance like a postcard. Off to the right, the

Saguache and Mosquito mountain ranges are also visible. Pikes Peak is behind you. Eleven-mile reservoir lays glistening on your left and the Spinney mountains dot the valley floor. The scene stretches before you like a shallow bowl. It seems the whole world has opened up and flattened out. Spread in wide squares like a wonderful old quilt are miles of pastures tied together by the always curving South Platte River.

At first, the tundra looks barren without a past worth mentioning. But actually the region is steeped in the history of centuries. Less than 200 years ago, Arapaho and Ute natives fought great battles over what were once incredibly rich summer hunting grounds. The Indians followed the buffalo up Ute Pass from the eastern plains and hunted them in the once lush valley. Famed frontiersmen, Zebulon Pike, Kit Carson, and John Fremont crossed the Park in their explorations of Colorado.

Wildlife in the valley is a nonstop attraction. Prong-horn antelope are invariably present. The sharp-eyed visitor can often spy mule deer, elk, an occasional coyote, and even black bear or mountain lion in the sparsely treed areas. Bison herds graze and grow in the meadows around the small, former railroad and spa town of Hartsel.

A transformation has occurred. That slow poky pickup in front of you no longer matters. In fact, you've also forgotten about the stresses back home – work and the frantic rush-hour traffic. Instead, you marvel at the landscape before you. It's hard to drive a straight line; there's so much to see and imagine. Perhaps for the first time, you realize what a great gift you've been given by that rusty old truck doing 40 miles an hour: you *are* seeing things you want to see; and you *are* exactly in the place you want to be! You are at peace.

For a brief expanse of time, Colorado has come alive. You will cherish the moments forever.

Going to the dogs

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher

The first meeting of the new Guffey 4-H Dog Club was a chili potluck dinner and organizational meeting, without dogs, held at the fire station in Guffey on Thursday, February 28 at 6pm, with 18 people attending.

Guffey resident Amy Mason is the leader of the new Dog Club and said she started training dogs right out of high school. This will be her 14th year as a 4-H dog trainer. Mason said her clubs have always done really well.

"The trainers and dogs need to go to shows, rallies, and matches as well as the county and state fairs to win awards and ribbons. That means practice, practice, practice!" said Mason. She will need lots of parental help and volunteers for transportation.

The 4-H Dog Training Class starts at six years of age with the sub-novice category and goes up to different levels according to Mason. The first level will last about 8-10 weeks. Mason said she would teach the trainers, but the trainers had to practice at least one half hour each evening.

Mason said that the class would be working on agility training, rally training (obedience through an obstacle course) and working towards their Canine Good Citizen test (CGC). The CGC test involves walking on a loose leash, wandering through a crowd and meeting people, walking away and sit-stay-come, according to Mason. The club plans to host a CGC test this summer and

Mason said she already had a judge lined up for it.

The club also plans some fun events and trips, fundraisers, and a Christmas party throughout the year stated Mason.

"The oldest trainer, Maria Mandel, 19, is really a teen leader," said Mason, "but would be training her dog. The youngest trainer, Eason Schechter, 5, will be a Clover Bud this year," added Mason.

Club officers were elected. Club officers are: President, Emma Schechter; Vice-president, Jacob Taylor; Secretary, Hannah Taylor; Historian/Photographer, Arik Schechter; and Treasurer, Ryan Mason. Mason then said that all dogs had to have rabies and distemper vaccines to be in the club and she recommended heartworm, kennel cough and canine flu vaccinations as well. "The supplies needed," stated Mason, "are a six foot leather leash, a bag for gear, a dog water bottle, a fifteen foot long line, a choke chain and toy."

At the end of this level's training all the dogs would be able to sit in a line across and away from their owners. Mason said she would walk around everyone bouncing a ball and no dog would move. Of course no one believed their dog would be able to do



The second meeting of the 4-H Dog Club with dogs.

that. Only time will tell.

At the second meeting of the Guffey 4-H Dog Club on Thursday, March 7th, dogs were allowed and there was much chaos, at first. When the dust settled, there were nine dogs, eight youth trainers and one adult trainer, as well as on lookers.

All the dogs were fitted with choke chains and the trainers were shown the proper way to put on a choke chain by Mason. Mason stated that good training equals a good correction and she would show the trainers how to properly make a correction. Mason also stressed that all dogs need a regular collar with ID and tags.

Mason said they would be following the book, The Koehler Method of Dog Training, by William Koehler. Then she passed out bubble gum to everyone. "The gum is to keep your mouth busy so you won't talk to your dog and to remind you to keep your right hand "stuck" to your belly button with the leash gathered up in it at all times," said Mason.

The trainers should put their dog in a quiet place without food or water for 20-30 minutes before training. Trainers and dogs need to practice half an hour every night. After practice, return their dog to that quiet place for an hour.

The club will meet every Thursday evening at the fire station for 60-90 minutes and there will be guest speakers. The class will be taught the parts of the dog as well. "It is too late now to sign up for the 4-H dog club, but there will be a chance to sign up again next fall for 4-H," stated Mason.

Cripple Creek job fair at Aspen Mine Center April 30th

In January 2013, the Teller County Unemployment rate was 8.7%, up 0.3% from December and 0.2% from January 2012. This means that over 1000 people in Teller County were officially listed as unemployed. This number does not include those discouraged workers who have stopped actively looking for a job.

To connect hiring businesses with work-ready Teller County job seekers, the Pikes Peak Workforce Center will host a job fair on Tuesday, April 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Aspen Mine Community Center.

Employers interested in booth space should contact Hank Nelson at hanknelson@elpasoco.com or 719.689-3584.

Job fair attendees should dress appropriately; bring multiple copies of their résumés, and application information to help them fill out applications.

Fine art comes to Lake George Charter School

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

Charles Hill, a local art collector and self-described ‘art fanatic,’ brought several items from the Hill Family Trust collection to the Lake George Charter School on March 7th. Students from the school as well as others who were bussed to the show had the opportunity to see this world class collection of paintings from the 15th century by Leonardo da Vinci, Van Gogh and Picasso to name a few.

In addition to being able to view the works of art, Mr. Hill provided detailed information about each painting as he gave a tour of the pieces. Mr. Hill hopes that by bringing his collection to



Charles Hill shares information with students

the community he will increase art appreciation, especially among the young people.

PPRH Senior Circle Luncheon features “The History of Ute Pass”

On Friday, April 5, Larry Black from the Ute Pass Historical Society will be the luncheon speaker at the April Senior Circle event. Each month a program is sponsored by PPRH for Senior Circle members to provide them with fun ways to meet new friends, stay active and receive helpful healthcare information.

The luncheon will take place from Noon to 1:30 pm at the Woodland Park Public Library, 218 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park. The lunch and program are free to Senior Circle members and reservations are required. Please contact Karen Earley at 686-5802 to sign up or make a reservation at seniorcircle@pprh.net. Want to join the Senior Circle? Go to our website at PPRH.net.

Like us on PPRH Facebook, too, you might win a prize!

Lake George Charter School-Beyond the Abc’s -The Music Program

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

While many school districts across the country are eliminating music programs from their schools, the Lake George Charter School continues to provide music activities in spite of budget limitations. Deanna Daniel, music teacher, crams all of the activities into one school day. She provides general music instruction for 45 minutes on Mondays for the entire student body. The curriculum used for this instruction is the state approved music program. The rest of the day is spent with her piano students.

Beginning level students, starting at the 2nd grade, are taught as a group for 45 minutes. Prior students with experience are taught individually in 45 minute sessions. There is a small fee for the group and individual sessions. Eighteen students are presently in the program and there is a waiting list for the next opening. In the spring, 4-6th grade students are treated to a symphony concert to wrap up the music year.

Deanna said, “Several years ago an



Deanna Daniel works out the schedule for another day

anonymous donor gave a set of hand bells to the school. I use them during the general music program with 4-6th grade students. They (the bells) help in reading notes, foster team work and are never out of tune.”

The music program caps off the year with a formal piano recital with flowers and a candelabra on May 2nd at 7pm and the Annual Spring Concert on May 16th at 6:30pm. This year’s concert theme is “Somewhere Beyond the Sea” presented by the students and a special “fun” event by the staff.

Contact 748-3911 for questions and additional information.

Turkey hunting seminars in Colorado Springs

by Michael Seraphin

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will host free turkey hunting seminars in Colorado Springs. The seminars cover the fundamentals of turkey behavior, where to look for turkeys, hunting tactics and techniques. The seminars provide a wealth of knowledge about hunting America’s largest game bird.

The class is from 9 am - 3 pm, April 6th, at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office, 4255 Sinton Road, Colorado Springs. Call 719-227-5200 for more information.

“The classes are geared toward new hunters,” said Steve Lucero, an education specialist for CPW, “but you might pick up some new tips and tricks even if you are an old pro.”

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Haren and Felina’s story

by Danielle Dellinger

Mountain cottontail tended to be more solitary creatures except during mating season. But there would be several existing in one territory. However, even though they were close by to one another, it was still every rabbit for himself. Spring was always a hectic time. Flowers were blooming, trees were budding, and songbirds greeted the day with their songs that were either beautiful or obnoxious. But spring was also a mysterious time. Things were set into motion the instant that first patch of green grass appeared. Now that the predators had an easier time hunting them down, the rabbits would do anything for protection.

Haren, a mountain cottontail, had heard stories that whoever could capture the elusive Bigfoot, would be able to tame him and use him as a bodyguard since no animal dared to mess with the beast. Haren was tired of zipping from one place to another; he just wanted to munch on his grass in peace. No hawk would ever try to mess with him again if he could capture Bigfoot for himself. He figured that in the hills of Teller County, there had to be a Bigfoot around. Though, he would not be surprised if the bears had told Bigfoot about how aggressive the humans could be if they spotted a creature they didn’t like on their property. It’d be tough to find Bigfoot. But who even knew if the thing could be caught in the first place?

Haren knew that he would have some challenges. He would have to first find Bigfoot and do so before all the other mountain cottontails. Plus, breeding season was underway and he had yet to find a pretty doe to court. He knew he should have started looking back in February for a gal, but now the task seemed daunting, even though he had until July to get the job done. But all the best girls will have been taken by then. He had a feeling he was going to have to settle. He hopped along, grumbling to himself and sniffing clumps of grass here and there. Right now it was slim pickings since the grass was still struggling to turn green after such a dry winter. He wondered if the does had an easier life than the bucks. He figured they didn’t though, since they had to raise up to six kits, or kittens, at a time. That life didn’t sound too appealing.

He came to a paved road and stopped, listening while his nose wiggled furiously. He heard the faint rumble of a motor, but he didn’t know if he had much time to cross the road. Those scary, smelly monsters always moved so quickly and so unpredictably. He took the chance and zoomed across the road and into the forest on the other side. He caught the scent of many other rabbits and he knew that he was heading in the right direction. A Bigfoot usually had a nasty odor and not many ventured close to it when they came upon it for the raunchy stench was overwhelming. Haren had not yet thought about how he would capture Bigfoot, but he had never been much of a planner. He figured the others would be bringing material that would be more cumbersome rather than useful.

He hopped quickly through some brush, the terrain becoming steep. All around him he heard rustling caused mostly by birds, but there was one rustling sound that sounded similar to his own. He stayed still as he listened but the rustling stopped too soon for him to get a good pinpoint on its location. He tried sniffing the air. The next thing he was aware of was being on his side with an intimidating doe in his face, yelling at him, though the impact had knocked him for a loop. He winced when he finally heard her yelling clearly, and he shoved her off of him.

“I’m not doing anything wrong!” Haren exclaimed.

“This is my trail! Get your ratty tail off of it!” the doe hollered back.

Haren hopped a few paces away to give himself space and to assess what the heck was happening. He finally got a good look at the doe and was surprised and concerned at what he saw. She was thin and missing tufts of fur. She looked mangy and like she had some sort of horrible skin condition. Honestly, he was repulsed by the sight of her . . . and by the stench that he was sure rivaled that of Bigfoot. She looked toward him with wild, frenzied eyes. Her gaze didn’t linger on him and it darted away to frantically search the woods.

“Why are you here?” the doe finally asked.

“To capture Bigfoot,” Haren replied. “Just like every other rabbit in the forest.”

She shook her head and scratched vigorously behind her ear with her hind foot, patches of dry skin flaking away.

He grimaced and restrained himself from shooting off into a nearby bush.

“I can’t let you capture Bigfoot,” she said breathlessly. “I need him. I need more than any of you rodents.”

Haren didn’t doubt that, but he wondered how much longer she was actually going to live and why nature hadn’t run its course on her yet. What was keeping her alive?

“Why do you need Bigfoot for protection, other than because of your . . . condition?”

She narrowed her eyes at him and bared her teeth a little. “I have a sickly kit back in my warren. We both need protection, not just me.”

Haren was stunned. How did she get a mate? Did he really want to know . . . ? True, she probably looked the way she did because she’d had some bad luck, so he tried not to be too hard on her.

She glared at him, apparently sensing his thoughts. “Get lost, rodent!” she snapped, and then took off up the trail.

Haren chased after her, not wanting her to get to Bigfoot first. He figured he would be doing her a favor if he took

away her chance of protection and just let nature put her out of her misery. He caught up to her and she growled when she saw him and tried to kick him in the side without breaking stride. He just barely dodged away and glared at her. He heard other rabbits running with them and assumed that they all must be heading for the same spot. A faint, nauseating odor floated over them on the wind and it was all Haren could do to keep from fainting. Even just a whiff was potent and churned his stomach. He was sure that the instant they crested the hill, everything would explode into chaos.

However, at the top of the hill, everyone stopped and looked around. The odor was still faint, but they could pick up strange rumblings. The mangy doe glared at Haren and the others for a moment before racing down into the valley. The sickly gal could move, Haren noted as he took off after her. He heard the other rabbits follow suit. As they raced down the hillside, a roar unlike any other echoed through the silence. Did Bigfoot know they were coming? The strange rumblings got louder, and as they neared the valley floor, it became clear that the rumblings were footsteps. Something big was running, and doing so rather quickly.

Haren didn’t have much time to think on it since the trees thinned, and he looked up to see a massive shape running toward them at full speed. The ground quaked beneath them. None of the rabbits in his sight hesitated once they were close enough to what only could be Bigfoot. The stench made Haren’s fur stand on end. Bigfoot let out a roar as thousands of tiny bodies leaped onto him. Some had man-made rope or twine in their mouths and they did their best to get it around his neck to bring him down. The thick, hairy arms flailed about, sweeping aside small waves of rabbits. Only a few were too injured to continue. Haren saw the mangy doe trying to bite and dig at Bigfoot’s ankle. He didn’t think that would be very effective, but he did see that Bigfoot was staggering a bit more as he moved around. So maybe she was onto something. Haren dodged the gigantic feet that could easily crush his skeleton into dust and jumped onto the beast’s legs, scratching as hard as he could. Even though he still planned to take Bigfoot for himself, he figured he and the mangy doe could work together up to a certain point.

Bigfoot’s body swung around and Haren held on the best he could, but he noticed that the doe had gotten knocked away somehow. Despite her unsightly appearance, she was hard to locate. The ground was crawling with rabbits, and there were a few trying to get on top of everyone and launch onto Bigfoot. Bigfoot roared again and brought his enormous fists down, taking out numerous rabbits that time. Haren felt sick as he looked down at the flattened bodies. This was almost turning into a suicide mission, and he considered aborting it and going back to his warren. But he felt that he was too invested. A group of ten rabbits was attempting to wrap rope around Bigfoot’s ankles to trip him. The beast roared with frustration and went to take a step. Time slowed for a moment before the beast fell forward, smashing into a large portion of the rabbit population, taking out some trees as well. Haren felt his world go black.

When he awoke, he found it difficult to breathe. As it turned out, he was trapped under one of Bigfoot’s legs. He grunted and squirmed, doing his best to get free. He tired quickly and laid there breathing rapidly, panic starting to seep into his heart. He didn’t want to die trapped under some stinky beast. This really was a terrible idea. Whoever said that mountain cottontails needed to have Bigfoot as protection was sorely mistaken. As his breathing became more labored, he looked around for the mangy doe, wondering if she had escaped. At times, he could feel Bigfoot twitch, which meant that he was just knocked out, but who knew when he would awaken.

Scuffling came from nearby and Haren lifted his head and tried to see what was going on. To his surprise, the mangy doe was limping towards him. She kept her right front paw pulled up tight against her chest, even when she sat down in front of him.

“Well, I’m at a loss as whether to help you, or leave you to nature like you were going to do to me,” she said sourly.

“I’m sorry about that. Really. But please help me. I don’t want to die here . . . Not like this.” Haren did his best to look sincere with his apology.

She licked her uninjured paw then washed behind her ear a few times. “But it’s what you deserve. What goes around, comes around,” she said. “Or at least that’s what the humans say.”

“What does that have to do with anything?” Haren asked.

“Nothing. Just something I picked up.”

He frowned at her. “Are you going to help me or not?” he finally demanded, losing patience quickly.

She smirked and chuckled. “Fine. I’ll help. But you owe me.” She pressed herself against the leg and started pushing while Haren tried to pull himself out. Eventually he jerked himself free and stumbled away. His hind legs barely worked from the lack of blood circulation. He felt trapped in his own body. The doe started limping away, her job complete.

“Wait!” Haren called, dragging his hind legs behind him as he crawled after her. “I never caught your name.”

“You never asked.”

“So? What is it?”

“Felina,” she replied simply, gracefully hopping over a small fallen branch.

“Pretty name. Where are you going, Felina?”

“Home. This was a complete waste of time.”

“What about your sick kit? Who’s going to protect you two?”

“Don’t know. We’ll probably just end up dying. That’ll probably be better than suffering through life.”

“So that’s it? You’re suddenly done with life?”

“What else am I supposed to do? That dumb beast was my last shot, and it was a ridiculous notion in the first place. The species of Bigfoot may exist, but they’re not designed for symbiotic relationships.”

“You’re so wise, Felina. I’d love to help you out if I could, now that I owe you for saving me. Plus, I’m a rabbit of my word.”

“I don’t need your pity. Just do what I’ve been telling you right from the start: Get lost, rodent.” She stopped momentarily to glare at him to drive her point home.

“Fine. But at least let me walk you to your warren. Then I’ll scam.”

Felina didn’t respond, so he guessed that he was allowed to walk her home. He eventually got his blood flowing in his hind legs, so he was able to keep up with her. By the time they reached the entrance to her warren, the sun was dipping low into the sky and the world was cast in a soft gold glow. Felina started into her hole without a backwards glance. Haren felt that he should call her back, to say something comforting to her. The thought of her going home to just die made his stomach twist and flip horrendously. Then he had an idea.

“Felina, wait. Why don’t you take your kit and yourself to that place where pets of humans go and come out looking much better? I’m sure someone would take you in and help you. I know just the place where you could go, too.”

She looked over her shoulder at him, wary about the prospect of letting humans touch her and her baby. She finally shook her head and disappeared down her hole. Haren made a split-second decision and followed after her, joining her in the large den where her baby was nestled in a pile of dry grass at the far end. Felina looked at him, angry.

“Get out, rodent! Git!” She charged him and tackled him down, thumping him and shoving him towards the exit.

“Wait, wait! Please come with me! They can help, and you know it!” He rolled away to the opening of the tunnel and sat there.

Felina looked from him to her baby, then back to him.

“Fine,” she grumbled. “But if anything happens, you’re dead.”

Haren nodded. “You got it. I’ll let you kill me yourself.”

The three mountain cottontails sat patiently outside the back door to a vet clinic in one of the small towns of Teller County. They knew someone had to come out eventually. Finally, the door opened and out stepped a man and a woman. The man was the first to notice the trio, and his frown lines deepened as he looked more closely at Felina. He said something to the woman and she looked at Felina too before going back inside. Soon, Felina found herself resting peacefully with her kit in a plastic box with bars and a fluffy towel underneath her. Her skin felt much better and her belly was full for once. Her gaze drifted lazily to the window and she saw Haren peering in at her. She gave him a nod before she laid her head down and fell asleep. Haren watched her a moment and found that he was rather fond of her. He liked her spunkiness.

It wasn’t long before the battle with Bigfoot and the other rabbits became a hazy memory. Felina and her baby were released back into the wild once they were well enough. Felina found Haren on a grassy hill munching on delicious flowers. She cautiously approached him and asked him softly if he still needed a mate for the season.

Haren grinned at her and quickly cuddled up to her. To this day, they share theories as to what happened to Bigfoot after the battle that, oddly enough, brought them together for a mating season.



Happy birthday Mother Earth

by Bani Kurth

April 22nd is Earth Day, a time to reflect on how our Mother Earth is faring. For several years I have been aware of changes to the Colorado climate. The memories of camping treks to the Rockies from Minnesota as a kid to fish at Deckers, in the South Platte River, cannot be replicated. The skies are less blue. The ground is parched. Fire danger is scary. Critters rove near homes to find sustenance. While listening to 850 AM KOA Denver radio in the wee hours one sleepless night, George Noory of Coast to Coast.com discussed chemtrails. The long white trails behind high flying white jets... the trails that look like vapor that we expect to be emitted. The thing that I had noticed is that the sky trails I have been seeing are long lasting. They spread into linear cottage cheese shaped clouds that hang in the sky. Some days, several of these planes form x's or grids. The trails coagulate into huge hanging clouds that filter the sun for hours. This radio program advised listeners to do their own research via the website. Look at: www.geoengineering-watch.org. Check out the movie, "What are they spraying?" Why do our weather people not address these trails on radio and TV? Talk

to strangers, your friends, the local government officials about these issues. Rosalind Peterson, author of "The Chemical Cover-up", a former USDA Farm Service crop loss adjuster, is at the forefront of chemtrail research. She says, "Chemtrails are causing detrimental human health effects and environmental degradation." Health complications are usually fungus related and will not respond to antibiotics. According to KOA's broadcast discussion, \$175,000 has been allocated for weather engineering in Colorado for July 2013. Geo-engineering is being called global experimentation by some scientists. According to publicity these chemtrails are comprised of several chemicals including aluminum, along with arsenic, barium, lead, and others. These chemicals affect the air we breathe, our water, our earth. Some say these chemicals have been disbursed from the sky for between 50 to 70 years. Are chemtrails being used to manipulate the weather? To stop global warming? Do they cause global warming? What effect do these chemicals have on our Mother Earth now? How about the future? Remember the Hollies song, "All that I need is the air that I breathe and to love you."



Chemtrails in the sky.
Photo by Rainey Hall

We each need to do our own investigations into environmental issues for our own health and safety. Do something positive for Earth Day... Rake your slash. Plant a tree. Start your veggie plants in pots on the kitchen window sill. It's good to have a Healthy Mom.

Gold for the Colorado capital dome was donated by CC&V

by David Martinek

When work begins this summer to regild the Colorado state capital dome in Denver, the gold will have come from the Cripple Creek and Victory Gold Mining Company located right here in Teller County. In a ceremony with Governor Hickenlooper in September 2011, company officials presented him with a 68-pound gold dore (an impure button of mostly gold and silver) mined and poured at the ADR plant outside of Victor. "CC&V is proud to provide the gold for the capital dome," said Jane Mannon, the local community relations manager for the mine. "We see it as a real example of living our mining heritage." After the ceremony, the semi-pure gold was then transported to a refinery in Salt Lake City where it was converted into seven 24 karat gold ingots, about 65 ounces, worth \$120,000. From there, the gold was flown under tight security to Florence, Italy to the Giusto Manetti Battiloro gold leaf factory where the ingots are being shaved into 140,000 "tissue-thin" (1/8000s of a millimeter) sheets approximately three inches square. The Italian factory has been milling gold leaf for some time, providing their handiwork for such famous structures as Buckingham Palace and the Hall of Mirrors in the palace at Versailles. Back in 1908 when Colorado's capital dome was first gilded to commemorate the state's gold rush era, the gold came from Colorado mines - a group of miners pooled together 200 ounces. Prior to that time, the dome had been overlaid with copper. However, when the dome was regilded in 1991,

the gold came from a variety of out-of-state and international sources. Now, the tradition of providing gold from Colorado has returned. After part of the dome structure fell off in 2006, due to a century of corrosion, it became necessary to restore the dome and regild it yet again. "Back in 2006, when the piece of cast iron fell off the dome, I contacted the state and said, 'We have a gold mine here,'" said Marie Patterson, manager of state government affairs for AngloGold Ashanti, the parent company of the Cripple Creek and Victor gold mining operation. Patterson is also a member of the board of directors for Colorado Preservation Inc. Once the gold leaf is returned to Denver, the actual gilding of the dome will take a half-dozen people working on scaffolding to apply and burnish about 50 to 100 square feet a day with cotton balls. During that time, the capital dome will be shrouded. A completion date and unveiling is set for sometime in 2014. "Participating in this initiative aligns with AngloGold Ashanti and CC&V's values in that safety is number one and the community and society in which we operate will be



A gold button, or 'Dore,' similar to those pictured was presented to Gov. Hickenlooper in September 2011.
Photo by David Martinek

better off for [our] having been there," said Ron Largent, Executive Vice President of AngloGold Ashanti's Americas Operations. "The donation of gold from CC&V has been mined by employees dedicated to safety and environmental stewardship. They all take pride in knowing they played a significant role in the restoration of the capitol dome."

Critter Corner



David K. Johnson,
Arabian Acres/Florissant



Scooter

John and Kelly Laurinc - Divide

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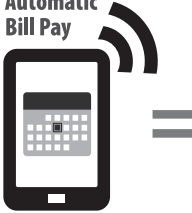
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2013-14 fishing, hunting licenses now on sale

by Joe Lewandowski

Colorado Parks and Wildlife hunting and fishing licenses are on sale now for the 2013-14 seasons at retail outlets, at parks and wildlife offices and on-line.

Anglers are reminded that they must have a new license by April 1.

Lion hunters also now have an extra month--through April--for hunting, but they must buy a new license on or after April 1. That license will be valid through March 31, 2014.

License buyers between the ages of 18-64 also must buy a \$10 Colorado Habitat Stamp. Money collected from stamp purchases is used to preserve and protect wildlife habitat throughout the state.

A resident annual fishing license costs \$26. Youngsters 15 and under are not required to purchase an annual license; however, if they plan to fish with a second line, they must buy a second-rod stamp for \$5. Senior annual licenses for those 64 or older cost just \$1.

A combination fishing-small game license is available for \$41. A small-game license costs \$21, but only \$1.75 for those under 18.

Turkey season starts April 13. A resident license is \$21 and just \$11 for anyone under 18. Remember that the deadline for applying for big game limited licenses is April 2.

Purchase of any hunting or fishing license also includes a search and rescue fee.

Now is also a good time to buy a Colorado

State Parks pass. A pass, good for entry at 42 state parks, costs \$70 and is good for a year from the date of purchase. Buy one at a Parks and Wildlife office or online at <https://parksstore.state.co.us>.

Anglers should pick up a 2013-14 fishing brochure to check regulations and to see what's new. You must know the regulations for the waters you are fishing. Brochures are available at license dealers or any parks and wildlife office, and online at <http://case.epaperflip.com/Colorado/fishing/>.

The online version features helpful videos on fishing techniques, how to safely release fish, special locations and more.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is also asking anglers for help again this year to report suspicious activity on state waters, especially reservoirs. Moving fish from one water to another in Colorado is illegal and causes serious damage to a fisheries. If you suspect a "bucket biologist" is transplanting fish, please contact a Parks and Wildlife office or call Operation Game Thief at 1-877-265-6648.

Anyone who takes a boat to a lake or reservoir is reminded that Colorado Parks and Wildlife conducts mandatory boat inspections and decontaminations at 27 state parks and 58 other locations around the state. Information about the state's extensive boat inspection program can be found online at <http://wildlife.state.co.us/Fishing/Pages/MandatoryBoatInspections.aspx>.

Saved in time: The fight to establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

July 30, 1969, Florissant, Colorado. Women and children stand in front of the bulldozers, determined to save the 34 million year old fossils. One child (Holly Buchan) remembers "...standing and staring at them. They were big and fierce like dinosaurs. I heard my mom (behind me) saying something like 'Just stand still. Don't move, Honey! They won't hurt you.' I felt like I was all alone there to face down/stop the bulldozers from breaking all the fossils." On Sunday, April 14, 2013, you are invited to join Dr. Herb Meyer as he talks about his new book "Saved in Time: The Fight to Establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument".

The exciting excerpt (quoted above) is from the just released book by Estella Leopold and Herbert Meyer, detailing the story of these unsung heroes of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. It also exposes the villains as the story unfolds with all of its many twists, turns and insults. Herb Meyer also recounts the

exciting fossil discoveries by early paleontologists, homesteaders, and landowners, along with some of the stories behind the national monument. One review states that the "book reads like a mystery thriller."

Herb Meyer, the book's coauthor, is the paleontologist for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. He is also Adjunct Curator, University of Colorado at Boulder, and Research Associate, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Dr. Meyer is also the author of the highly acclaimed book "The Fossils of Florissant" (Smithsonian Institution, 2003).

Dr. Meyer's talk will be held at the Florissant Public Library, Sunday, April 14, at 2:00 p.m. This program is presented as a public service by the Pikes Peak Historical Society together with the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds. Admission is free but seating is limited. Refreshments will be served, and a book signing will follow. For more information, call 719-748-3562.

Ice fishing in South Park

by Jeff Tacey

Ice out is coming to the South Park high country lakes on the South Platte River system. Ice out will all depend on the weather. One year it's the first of April and the next year it's closer to the end of April. But you want to be there when the ice melts as the warmer water, food sources, and hungry trout will be close by shore.

Make sure you get to Antero Reservoir as the limit was moved from 2 trout to 8 trout as the Denver Water Board is preparing to drain the reservoir. Antero will close on May 1st. The water will be sent downstream to Cheesman Reservoir. Although draining Antero will hurt the fishing community, it will help in the long run as the sucker fish population is killed off and the reservoir will benefit from "new reservoir syndrome" where the fish grow rapidly after refilling the lake.

In the summer, the trout can grow 2 inches

a month with all the bug life and weed growth. Try using power bait and night crawlers at Antero as the trout will hit bait best at ice out.

Next up try Elevenmile Reservoir. Hungry trout and northern pike will be cruising the shoreline looking for an easy meal. Some of the biggest fish of the year are caught in spring. Again, bait will work best at Elevenmile until the water starts to warm up.

Last on the list is Spinney Mountain Reservoir. Spinney is a fly and lure only lake, so no bait. Try a Pistol Pete, Woolly Bugger, or egg pattern on a spinning rod with an air bubble. The same flies will work on a fly rod. For lures; chuckers, Kastmasters, Krocidiles, Daredevils, and floating Rapalas work well.

Don't forget to buy your new 2013 Colorado fishing license and check the 2013-2014 Colorado Fishing Guide for all rules and regulations.

Geology Class in Teller County

By Paul Combs

Teller County enjoys some of the most amazing geology on the planet. Community Partnership Family Resource Center (a Colorado non-profit) offers a six Saturday course on The Geology of Teller County, in Divide, APR 6 - MAY 11. Learn about gold, gems, fossils, NEWLY DISCOVERED giant meteorite craters, faults, volcanoes, glaciers, and more, with computer imagery, giveaway specimens, and hands-on activities. Choose mornings (9 - noon) or p.m. (1 - 4) for your convenience. Field trip included! Great for teachers, rock hounds, students, or general interest. NO TESTS Cost: \$80 Call 686-0705 for registration & info. Classes fill quickly; register early.

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Becoming a water wise westerner

by Kathy Hansen

It is likely you have heard the word “drought” sometime in the past few weeks. Definitions of drought all refer to a lack of precipitation affecting hydrologic imbalances (aquifers and watersheds) and the ability to sustain plant and/or animal life. In other words, an abundant water supply is necessary to sustain life.

The San Luis Valley and Arkansas Valley are experiencing challenging drought conditions. Antero Reservoir will be drained May 1st and the water will flow into the Cheeseman Reservoir. This preserves the water by preventing evaporation. The last time this action was taken was 2002, due to similar drought conditions. 2002 was the year of the Hayman Fire. In January 2013, USDA designated 43 of Colorado’s 64 counties as disaster areas due to severe drought. Teller and Park Counties are included.

Is the drought limited to Colorado? In 1990, 30 US states reported “water stress” conditions. In 2009, 45 states reported “water stress” conditions. We are beginning to see a need throughout our country to conserve. See the end of this article for helpful web sites regarding drought statistics.

Is there an end in sight? We do know last summer’s drought across the US is concerning to our food supply, especially meat and dairy products. Similar conditions are predicted for this year.

What can be done? Science has yet to find a way to control weather patterns, which means no replenishment of our aquifers. However, we can become more aware of our choices which impact how we use our second most precious, life sustaining natural resource - water. The first, of course, is oxygen. We cannot live more than six minutes without oxygen. We can live three to five days without water. While drought conditions prevent aquifers from replenishing we need to learn to conserve. We must adapt in order to sustain our existence.

Let’s take a little trip through time and reflect on cultural differences.

The Utes were a nomadic people who traveled through this area before they were taken to reservations. As hunters/gatherers, they were well aware of their resources. They followed the availability of their resources across the land and over the seasons. They knew what resources could feed them in which seasons, as well as the best route to get there. They used only what they needed and often gave something back to the earth in gratitude.

The early settlers brought provisions with them as they came west. Rivers, lakes, and streams were clean, free of pollution, and readily available for replenishing their water supply. In fact, most European immigrants followed the streams, whereas many natives traversed the ridges. The resource (furs, buffalo, gold, and water) they were seeking played a large factor in where they settled. Once the resource was gone, they left. This is evidenced by the many abandoned mining

towns throughout our state.

Fast forward 200 years. Railroads, highways, and airports run from east to west. Metropolises, cities, and towns are well developed. GPS guides us via satellite instead of constellations. Hunting and gathering means either you are adept at scoping out which restaurant will serve the food you are hungry for or gathering the best choices at the grocery, perhaps both. Our water comes out of a faucet.

I adore the pleasure of modern conveniences. I enjoy a hot shower after a challenging work-out. I like hot running water for cooking and cleaning up. Doing laundry at home compared to the time, travel, and expense of the laundromat is a no brainer. By the way, how is it that only the clean laundry lands in the puddle?

I remember growing up in Wisconsin where water was plentiful. In fact, our family shared a well with one neighboring family. Grandmother would bring her water jugs when she came to visit because she didn’t like the taste of the “city water” she was hooked up to.

I recall noticing how she and Mother rinsed dishes differently (both washed by hand). One day, I asked Grandma why she rinsed dishes the way she did and Mom did it differently. Grandma said, “Your Mom has her own well that she shares with only one neighbor, whereas we are hooked up to city water and have to share with everyone in the city.”

Grandma then told me when she was growing up there was no indoor plumbing. The average home had an outhouse. There was a well on the property. People would haul the water into the house. “Modern” homes in her day had a pump inside the kitchen so you didn’t have to go outside to pump water. It was convenient to have to only haul the water WITHIN the house. Grandma’s water saving style had deep roots.

The first lesson was supply and demand. The second lesson was about doing things differently in different places, rural was different from city. The third lesson was about habits that can be changed based on current situation and need.

Most of us who live in Colorado today were born someplace else. We need to learn to adapt to our environment. We find we need to learn to become fire wise as fire is one of the natural disasters common to our geographical area. Water conservation is another way we adapt to living in the mountains. We simply need to change our mentality and attitudes about water. The behavioral changes will follow and they can be easy. Read on.

It is increasingly important that we consider how much water we are using. The average adult human ingests approximately

two gallons of water per day through fluids and foods. We will lose this water through sweat, urine, feces, and our breath. Then we will use water to clean ourselves.

It is increasingly imperative we learn to conserve when we can. The average human consumes 100 gallons/day, 75% used in the bathroom and 25% of that is in the toilet.

WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER:

- Start with a trickle. Most people will turn the faucet on full blast then turn it down. What if you would start with a trickle and turn it up only to the point where you need it to be?
- Our faucets, shower heads, and toilets are the mechanisms by which our 100 gallons/day will flow. It makes sense that we assure these mechanisms are efficient, water-saving, and leak free. A worn or leaky

faucet can lose 20 gallons/day or more. Switching to water saving shower heads and low flow aerators can be a smart investment of usually under \$20. The cost of replacing fixtures can be recovered by saving on

drought fees.

- Put bricks or plastic bottles filled with pebbles in your larger capacity toilet tank to take up volume. Make sure it will not interfere with the working mechanisms in the tank.
- Read your water bill for usage and compare to last bill as well as this time last year. It may be the best way to identify a leak. If you have your own meter, check it before a two hour period when no water will be used. If the meter has moved when no water was used, you have a leak or a faulty meter.
- Do not use your toilet as a waste basket.
- Tell your server at the restaurant whether or not you want ice water with your meal.
- Be sure to let flatlanders who visit know we are in a drought. A friend who had a house-guest for several months noticed a 2/3 water usage increase. A little education goes a long way.
- Insulate your water pipes. You will get hot water faster and use less energy.
- Learn which faucet gives hot water fastest. You can save gallons walking an extra few feet to the faucet with the hottest water fastest.
- Shave using a bowl of water to rinse the razor instead of letting the water run.
- Run only what you need. Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth or soaping up hands or shampooing.
- Capture clean. When you must let the faucet run to get to a hot or cold temperature, capture the clean water in a gallon jug. This

clean water can be used to refill ice cube trays, in the Brita, for coffee, tea, or juice, for cooking, and/or for refreshing your pet’s water dish. Clean water can be added to your clothes washing machine before you turn it on as there is a sensor when the water is adequate for the load size.

- Use dishwashers and clothes washers only with full loads or adjust water levels accordingly.
- Minimize use of sink garbage disposals.
- Wash veggies and fruits in a pan of clean water instead of letting water run.
- Do not let water run while rinsing dishes when you wash by hand. Do use a basin to capture rinse water. This can be used to wet hair when you wash hair.
- If you run a business that has a public restroom, post a sign stating we are experiencing a drought – please be water wise.
- When it’s yellow let it mellow, if it’s brown flush it down. Most toilets take two to five gallons of water to empty. If the average human uses the toilet every two hours and the average human is awake for 16 hours, then they flush eight times/day, using between 16 to 40 gallons of water per day or 480 to 1200 per month. Experiment and see what works best for your family and sewage/septic system. I am not suggesting we clog or overflow; no one wants to deal with that. However, if you could decrease the number of flushes per day, you will save water accordingly.
- Place a bucket in the shower with you and aim the shower head at the bucket while shampooing and/or soaping. We have saved at least 1,000 gallons/month capturing this water to use as flushing water. Did you know MOST other cultures are appalled that the US wastes fresh water to flush? I choose fresh water for drinking; cooking, cleaning and I choose gray water for flushing.
- Capture gray. What about the water that comes off your hands during the washing process? What about rinse water from doing dishes? How about the dish water itself? What do you do with the water from boiled potatoes or pasta? What about water used to wash vegetables? How about the unfinished water in your glass/bottle or your pet’s dish? These are all examples of gray water and that water can still be used; perhaps not best for ingestion.
- Gray water can be used to flush the toilet. Gray water can be used for houseplants as well as garden plants. Gray water can be used in the pot on the woodstove that helps to get some humidity into the air.
- Consider using gray water for rinsing off dirty dishes instead of fresh running water, whether you wash dishes by hand or with dishwasher.
- Gray water could be captured from your clothes washing machine. For those who are mechanically inclined with lots of space you could direct the empty-hose of your clothes

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washer to a large enough tub. If you are really inclined, direct that water to the toilet. Individual differences and safety matter. Every family unit is unique. It is important to identify those changes you believe you can easily make. Safety should ALWAYS come first. If you are unsteady on your feet or have difficulty standing, then a bucket in the shower could be a hazard. However, you may be able to assure you are using only what is needed, or be the one who tells the server who wants ice water at your table.

PEOPLE TEND TO RESIST CHANGE. HERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE IT EASIER:

- Start with one idea. If your family is accustomed to free flowing water implementing all of these changes will only set you up for failure. Try one change at a time. As you become more comfortable with the first change, try adding another way to conserve.
- Have your tools at the ready. There are a few tools that will make your efforts for water conservation easier. Have the bucket to capture shower water in the shower. I find a handle on the bucket is helpful for those of us who are a little clumsy. Have a jug or pitcher with a lid next to the sink so when you are running water, the capture vessel is right there. You are more likely to use it if it is where you will need it. Place the hand sanitizer next to the soap at the sink so you don't have to think twice. Keep a gray capture container in your sink or in the cabinet below so it's easy to get to.
- Challenge yourself. Find new ways to conserve or re-use water. After a recent snowfall, I began to fill some containers with snow to melt. I heard the water dripping from the roof and placed several buckets to capture the snow melting from the roof. That netted 12 gallons I had not previously considered.
- Think in terms of flushes. A financial advisor once recommended considering purchases in terms of how many hours it would take to earn the amount of the purchase. For example, if earning \$10 per hour, a \$60 purchase takes six hours to pay for. That 12 gallons recovered from the snow melting off the roof (see 3 above) becomes 4.8 flushes.
- Make a game out of it. Do you have a healthy rivalry in your home or a competitive nature? Let this work to your advantage. As you became more water aware, seek additional ways to conserve. Notice how less can be recovered through shorter showers or how a single clean catch jug is all that's needed for recovery.
- Teach your children well. Get the kids involved in your water conservation efforts. Check out this website with your kids for games and more info www.epa.gov/watersense/test_your_watersense.html
- As a family, take a look at your water bill for usage and set a new goal. Suppose

your first goal is to save 500 gallons/month. Ask each person what they think they can do to help make a difference. Decide how you will reward your family for reaching the goal. When you reach this first goal, challenge your family to conserve 750 gallons/month as the next goal. What will your annual water savings goal be and how will you achieve it?

- Meet with your neighbors to share ways to save water. Challenge your neighbors to conserve. Special thanks to Jim and Barb for taking time to meet with us. The opportunity to hear how each of your families were able to get water usage down to 1,500 and 1,250 gallons per month, respectively, was very encouraging!

HERE ARE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS OF WATER CONSERVATION:

- Saving water saves money on your utility bill.
 - Water conservation helps prevent pollution in nearby lakes, rivers, and water sheds.
 - Water conservation extends the life of your septic system.
- Wells are running dry in Park County and some areas in Teller County need to turn off wells to check rate of refill. Each aquifer is unique in its rate to replenish which will depend on precipitation, type of substrate, if the ground is frozen, and how much water is being used. Some areas have had to purchase water to replenish their holding tanks. Drought fees are being applied to water bills. The cost of fresh water out of the faucet is going up. Some water systems have had to shut down for repairs or replenishment.

What happens if the well runs dry? How would we handle water rationing? What if laundry could only be done on certain days? What if our street were allotted a specified amount each month?

Can we be the generation of people who will learn the balance of using our second most precious resource wisely enough to settle and survive the west? What simple changes are we willing to make to live in the mountains? Just like the European settlers and the native Utes, we need to adapt to our current circumstance. While one person conserving will make a difference, our communities working together will make a sustainable impact.

The Ute Country News is willing to publish a new "Water Saving Tip" each month if you are willing to send something in that hasn't been covered in this article. We are also willing to give you a bucket if that is the only reason you are unwilling to conserve. Call 719-686-7393 to submit your water saving tip or request a bucket.

Check out these websites for more information on drought conditions or to report your own statistics.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DM_state.htm?CO,W
<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/drought/>



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What is a moose?

by Rainey Hall

- 1: a light spongy food usually containing whipped cream and molded i.e. chocolate mousse
- 2: a foamy preparation used in styling hair

This article, however, is about the four-legged moose. The name is believed to have originated from the Algonquian tribe from the Ottawa River valley of Canada. It means, “he who trims or cuts.” Others believe it denotes, “twig eaters.”

There are seven species of moose in the world. The moose in Colorado are the smallest of the four sub-species named Shirasi or Shira. The antlers, not horns, are palmated, (shaped like a hand), not dendritic like those of deer and elk.

Per John Broderick, Terrestrial Program Supervisor from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, “Moose are an introduced species to Colorado. There are historical records of moose being here but no proof that there were self-sustaining populations.” Twenty-four moose were officially introduced into Colorado in 1978 and 1979 from Utah and Wyoming. Many transplants have been made since then, the latest being into the Flat Tops Mountains/Wilderness Area in 2010. Broderick continues, “The moose introduction effort has been very successful and provides an increased opportunity for Coloradans and our visitors to...enjoy these magnificent creatures.”

Will moose move as far south as Northern New Mexico? Broderick says, “They might. It is possible that a moose...could wander into New Mexico.”

The largest of the deer family, moose tend to be soloists. There are always exceptions to the rule. Wildlife viewers have seen large groups kneeling in spring to nibble on young shoots of grass.

What do moose eat? Per Broderick, “...estimates assumed willows...comprise 85% of the...moose’s diet.” Moose have been seen stealing from hay stacks and eating leaves. Broderick teaches, “Generally (Colorado) moose eat...79 lbs./day/dry wt. and less in winter, 44lbs/day/dry wt. Moose do not have upper incisors. They use upper molars to grind their food...and do very well on the browse provided in Colorado’s mountains.”

How does hunting effect the moose population? Broderick answers, “We now have moose hunting in 36 GMUs, (Game Management Units). The estimated statewide post-hunt moose population...was 1,800 in 2011, compared to 1,700 in 2010. License demand far exceeds allocation, with 15,400 applicants for 177 moose licenses in 2011. For 2012, we issued 219 licenses. The number of post-hunt moose for 2012 and licenses to be allocated for 2013 should be determined by the end of March, 2013.”

States Broderick, “Moose populations continue to do well throughout Colorado. We are fortunate because most other states are experi-



encing declines in their moose populations.”

This author has seen a white-eared moose several times in Colorado. Broderick states, “There are various degrees of patchy albinism...due to localized mutations in skin cells. Albinism in animals is hereditary and occurs when a recessive gene from each parent is passed on to the offspring.”

Moosvelous facts:

- The word for two or more moose is: moose.
- Moose can run up to 35mph. Both cows and bulls have been known to charge cars and people.
- The funny thing hanging from the bottom jaw is called a bell. Cows and bulls have them. Biologists are still uncertain what the exact reason is for it; maybe an indication of age and breeding health. The “clapper” can freeze and fall off in the winter.
- The age of a moose can be determined by its jaw.
- Peak rut is generally late September to early October.
- If hunting moose, use appropriate size ammunition. Be certain your target is a moose - not an elk or domesticated mammal. Unbelievable as it is, several have made these mistakes.
- The moose’s hump is caused by the long vertebral processes of the spine which are covered by muscle. The shape does not change due to sex hormones, food supplies or water, nor is fat stored there.
- Moose antlers usually fall off in winter. In spring they grow again.
- Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in moose throughout Colorado. Per Jim Baker from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, “CWD in harvested moose is under 5%.”
- Gestation is approximately 243 days, calving occurring in late May to early June.

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Guffey 9 Health Fair May 5th

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! The 9 Health Fair is coming once again to Guffey on Sunday, May 5th from 7:00 a.m. to noon and will be held at the Guffey Charter School. The 9 Health Fair is Colorado’s largest non-profit health fair program whose sole mission is to promote health and awareness and to encourage individuals to assume responsibility for their own health.

While children are welcome at the Health Fair, all participants must be at least 18 years of age. Blood cannot be drawn on anyone under 18 even with parental consent.

If you would like to learn more about the 9 Health Fair, please go to www.9HealthFair.org. Or, if you would like to register on-line and pre-pay by credit card (on-site; checks or cash only) go to; www.9HealthFair.org/indafair then click on “You can register online now” link. On-site registration will also be available the day of the fair. We have new screenings available this year, please check the 9Health Fair site, click on the Guffey site and a list of screenings will pop up.

Share the health – bring a friend, family member or neighbor!

Last chance to win is May 1st

The Business Connection will have its final drawing on May 1st. Here’s how it works: Call The Business Connection 719-836-1919 to get your form so you know which businesses are participating from Alma, Fairplay, Jefferson, Como and Hartsel. There are over 20 participating businesses. Spend at least \$10 at any four of the participating businesses. Turn your form into The Business Connection. The final drawing is May 1st. Prizes range in value between \$10 and \$65. Get your form and see how easy it is to win!

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Rampart Library District news

by Rita Randolph

Love books and want to discuss them with other book lovers? Join one of the District’s book clubs. The Florissant Book Worms meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Florissant Public Library at 10:30 a.m. For April they are reading The Girl Who Fell from the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow, and in May, Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. WP Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Woodland Park Public Library. April’s choice is The Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers, and in May the club is reading Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides.

Florissant Library’s themed storytime continues to grow. Snacks and crafts are often part of the fun. In April: Apr. 4 — Bun-nies, Apr. 11 — Bears, Apr. 18 — Baking Bread, and Apr. 25 — Boogers (hopefully no snacks this day!).

The computer classes being offered at the Florissant Library have been very popular, and will continue. Classes included are Mouse Basics & Keyboard Basics, Computer Basics,

Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Micro-soft PowerPoint. Pick up a schedule or look online on the district’s website: <http://rampart.colibraries.org>, under Computer Classes.

On Thursday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m., Celinda Kaelin will present a program on the “Spirit Trees” in the Pikes Peak Region at the Woodland Park Public Library, if you missed the program at the Florissant Library in March. The native Ute Indians marked hundreds of trees in the area for spiritual reasons over their hundreds of years of occupation. Join us for this fascinating program! For more information call 687-9281 x132.

Are you a birder or interested in birds in Colorado? Charlie Campbell of Colorado Springs will discuss the common and the not-so-common birds of Colorado at the Woodland Park Public Library on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.

The Florissant Library is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10-2 p.m. Be sure to stop in during National Library Week, April 15-April 21!

Career Mentoring at CCV High School

by Dana Taylor

The “Career Mentoring” event was a success at Cripple Creek Victor High School, sponsored by Second Chance Ranch.

The Career Mentoring event was a three week series of presentations, workshops and one-on-one mentoring using career professionals in the community. The event focus was unique for each week. The first week’s focus was on resume sharpening, taught by teacher, Mr. Mowery and Mike Perini of Perini & Associates. The next week interview skills were practiced with many leaders of the local community, who came in to help with mock interviews. Lori Gray, of CCV Gold Mine gave a presentation on interview tips. The final week, Joel Schultz of Men’s Wearhouse gave the students a presentation on how to dress for the interview.



Alex Hutson, Chris Irelan, Brandon Oxley, and Jaimi Cloud pay close attention as Joel Schultz of Men’s Wearhouse shows how to tie a necktie.

Mueller State Park’s spring programs and guided hikes

by Michael Seraphin

Spring is springing!! Pack your gear for early spring weather and get out and enjoy your recreational activity of choice at Mueller State Park. Trails are open and accessible, campsites are available and sledding hills are open as weather permits! Remember our cabins are available year-round.

When enjoying the outdoors in Colorado’s unpredictable weather, always have a map, be prepared with water, sun protection, and be dressed in layers. All of our offered programs are free, but you must have a \$7 daily parks pass or a \$70 annual pass on your vehicle to enter the park.

Mueller State Park is located 4-miles south of Divide on Highway 67. For weather updates or for more information, call Mueller State Park at 719- 687-2366.

Here is a list of upcoming programs at Mueller State Park.

‘HIKING FOR FUN AND FITNESS’ – HIKING SERIES

April 6 and 20 at 10 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Enjoy the spring; with or without snow! Volunteer naturalist Nancy Remmler will guide you on a series of hikes throughout the winter, every first and third Saturday of the month. Each hike will be determined by YOU! Bring your favorite hiking suggestions, sturdy, insulated and waterproof shoes/boots, winter shoe spikes/cleats, and/or snowshoes, layered winter clothing, sun protection, water, and snacks. Please come prepared for all types of snow conditions, hikes will take place regardless of amount of snow or ice.

ROCK CLINIC

April 6 at 10 a.m. at the Visitor Center Auditorium

Volunteer naturalist Bob Hickey will give an engaging and eye-opening talk about rocks and their formation. There will be true specimens and examples for a complete representation of the rocks around us in the region. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and Q & A.

TOUCH TABLE: SEDIMENTARY ROCK

April 6 at 1 p.m. at the Visitor Center

Check out the hands-on samples and learn about local geology with volunteer naturalist Bob Hickey. View a complete representation of the sedimentary rocks around us in the region. You can touch and feel specimens and learn how to identify them! Also, bring your favorite rock to show Bob!

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION EVENTS!!

April 21 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Meet at the Visitor Center

Join volunteer naturalist Nancy Remmler at 10 a.m. in the Visitor Center Parking Lot for an Earth Day hike! Spend some time outside, reflecting on our Earth and all that it offers at Mueller State Park. Good for adults and children alike; families welcome. The hike will be determined by the participants.

Kids, come enjoy Earth Day arts and crafts with volunteer naturalist Rose Banzhaf at 11 a.m. at the Visitor Center. Perfect for the whole family; picture frame projects will be made and stories will be read.

Afterwards, join volunteer naturalist Carole Larkey for a guided hike around the nature trail! Bring your Earth Day spirit, craft hands, and sturdy shoes for hiking! Please RSVP/sign up by April 19th if interested in attending. The celebration will be limited to 35 children participants. You may sign up at the visitor center OR call or email Chelsea Murray @ 719-687-2366 ext 107 or chelsea.murray@state.co.us

SERENE SATURDAYS – HIKING SERIES

April 27 at 10 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center Parking Lot.

Enjoy the serenity of a Saturday morning hike. Volunteer naturalist Carole Larkey will lead a hike on April 27. Your hiking destination will be determined by YOU! Bring your favorite hiking suggestions, sturdy, insulated and waterproof shoes/boots, winter shoe spikes/cleats, and/or snowshoes, layered winter clothing, sun protection, water, and snacks. Please come prepared for all types of snow conditions, hikes will take place regardless of amount of snow or ice.

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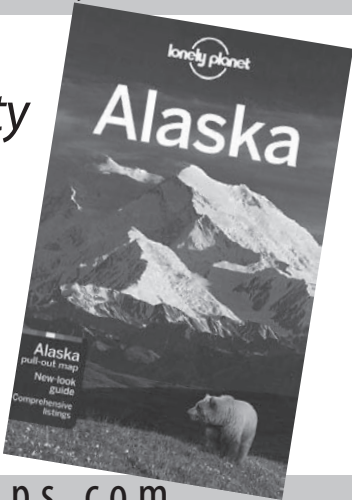
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Guffey Cemetery

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher

Who really owns the five acre Guffey cemetery? That question has been asked for several years, ever since the Guffey Community Association (GCA) decided to pursue getting historic designation for the cemetery. The question was finally answered at the cemetery meeting held on Wednesday, February 20th at the Guffey Community Charter School. No one really owns the cemetery, without more work and research, according to Amy Unger, Preservation Planner for the Park County Office of Historic Preservation.

Unger and Erica Duvic, also of the Office of Historic Preservation, have been doing extensive research on the cemetery ownership since last September. They gave a power point presentation highlighting their research. There were nine people attending the meeting plus Unger, Duvic and Tom Eiseman, Park County.

In January, 1896, the townsite of Freshwater, later changed to Guffey, was surveyed and platted by Will C. Teller, according to historic records.

In November, 1896, Gustave Cohen, the son of Sam Cohen, the owner of the general store in Fairplay, purchased 110 acres, which included the townsite of Freshwater and the cemetery, for \$1.25 per acre, or \$137.50, according to records.

According to records, Dean Johnson sold 16,623 acres adjoining the town of Guffey in 1956 to Robert C. Norris (Norris is the original Marlboro man). In 1965, Norris sold a large portion of that land to Jerry Mills, a Guffey resident, doing business as Mills Ranches.

In 1969, Mills Ranches sold the land that would become the Cover Mountain subdivision, which included the Guffey cemetery, to Sports Enterprises, David A. Noble, president of the board of directors.

Somehow, said Unger, the cemetery got left off the map when the subdivision was formed and mentioned that in the original town plat map, there were plans for a town park, but not for a cemetery.

According to Unger, Sports Enterprises formed another company, Black Forest Development Company in 1972, but both companies are apparently defunct, with no traceable activity since 1992.

“But really,” said Unger, “It was the survey done of the cemetery which allowed them to take the legal description to Fidelity Title company which confirmed that legal title to the cemetery is vested in Sports Enterprises and Black Forest Development Company which are both apparently defunct.”

“The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential plans for ownership and management of the Guffey Cemetery as well as to ask the community how they would like to proceed,” said Unger, who reviewed three possible options the county and the Guffey community can pursue.

Option one would be to continue to search for heirs of Noble or other members of the company and board of directors. If any are found, see if they would like to donate the property to the county.

“This option,” said Unger, “would take time and not allow the historic designation process to continue as well as no public access to the cemetery.”

Option two, would be for the county to take a quit claim title to the cemetery with the Park County Cemetery Committee overseeing and managing the Guffey cemetery with a Guffey representative on the cemetery board. The Cemetery Committee manages several cemeteries in Park County, including



Headstone of W.T. Boutwell, a civil war vet and member of the grand army of the republic. He served in the 13 New Hampshire infantry, came from San Francisco to Guffey and married Helen Pease Curliss, sister of Matilda Pease Townsend, on June 1, 1904 at “high noon” in Guffey.

Lake George and Como.

“This option would guarantee ownership of the cemetery for perpetuity and allow going forward on historic designation. The county would pay all the legal fees, which wouldn’t be too much,” said Unger. “Finding public access to the cemetery through easements over private property can progress, through GCA, as well.” Unger stated.

This option would happen only with the support of the Guffey community. Anyone who did not get to attend the meeting is encouraged to contact the county with their comments. Email Unger at aunger@parkco.us, or call her at 719-836-4292. There also will be a follow up meeting for more public input.

“Option three is to do nothing and then everything stops,” said Unger. “There would be no historic designation and no public access through private property to get to the cemetery which is private property also.”

At this point in the presentation, Geri Salsig, owner of Mountain Light Real Estate in Guffey, said she thought their may be a presumptive heir to the property.

Millie Wittwer, whose husband Don has passed away, may be an heir to the property said Salsig. Don Wittwer was on the board of directors of Sports Enterprises, according to Salsig, and since she knows Millie Wittwer, she would contact her about possible ownership of the property.

There was a lot of discussion about a quit claim title, what it involved, the cost (about \$600) and how long it would take to file. Apparently, one has to advertise in a newspaper for several weeks to allow any apparent heirs to come forward and claim title to the property stated Unger.

Questionnaires were passed out and returned. There seemed to be general agreement among those present for the county to continue looking for heirs and representatives of Sports Enterprises/Black Forest Development; especially to follow up on Salsig’s information. If any are found, see if they want to donate the property to the county. If that fails, the county will continue the quiet claim title. Unger stressed that nothing has been decided, yet.

Basically, ownership of the Guffey cemetery is still not really established, but we are another step closer to finding out.

J. A. ribbon cutting Feb. 28th



LF to R in front -- Debbie Miller, Linda Murray, Sherri Albertson, David Loose, JA of Southern Colorado, Inc., Kathy Schwindt, US Bank, JJ Jamison, David Buttery
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Fly fishing: move over guys, the ladies are here to stay

by Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy

The face of fly fishing has slowing been changing over the last decade. While men still dominate the sport, everyday more women are picking up fly rods and hitting the rivers to fool a few trout. I have often said that fly fishing is not a power sport and the trout don't care if it's a man or women at the other end of the line. At its core, it is a science where knowledge and technique supplant brute force and muscle. Over the last 15 years I've guided children as young as 5 years old and senior citizens approaching their 90's. With each passing year the ratios of women I've been introducing to fly fishing has be rising exponentially. Truth be told, proportionally, women represent the largest group of new recruits coming into the sport.

More and more I find myself on the river guiding couples rather than the lone fly fisherman. It's not uncommon for the husband to have had a bit of fly fishing experience under his belt, so on virtually every trip I am told the same thing. It goes something like this, "Robert, why don't you go ahead and work with my wife today, since I already know what I'm doing and she's new to fly fishing." Like a good guide, I nod my head and walk away with a smile on my face, knowing full well that within a few minutes she and I will absolutely be slaying fish and he will be catching little or no fish whatsoever. With each fish his wife lands, he will be looking over at us becoming more and more agitated and upset. Then it happens, with his tail between his legs, the dejected husband walks over to us, admitting defeat he humbly says, "You know Robert, maybe

I could use a little help myself." Now there's two dynamics going on here. First off, the person fishing with the guide should be catching many more trout then the person on their own. Secondly, at the risk of generalizing, it's been my experience that when it comes to learning the science of fly fishing women are often much better students then men. One could ponder the myriad of reason for this phenomena, but let me just say this, in my many years as a fly fishing guide and instructor, not once have I had a female client prematurely walking off during my instructions and tell me, "I'm good, I've got, I've got it." I wish I could say the same were true for my male students.

The fly fishing industry as a whole has finally started to realize that not only are women coming to the sport in large numbers but they are also demanding fishing gear and clothing that is suited for them specifically. Gone are the days of my wife have to wear my old back up waders which look and feel like she's fishing in a giant trash bag with boots. Walk into virtually any fly shop in the country today and there will be fly rods, waders, boots and clothing designed with a women's physique and since of style in mind. Whether it's a smaller handle on a fly rod that helps the women fly fisher to grip the rod with more control or a wader that better fits both a women's foot size and waist line, the industry has come to understand that women are willing to put out the bucks for good equipment that caters directly to their needs.

At my fly shop, Angler's Covey, we offer



Teresa Younghanz and Belikin show the catch of the day. Photo by Robert Younghanz

a three day women's fly fishing camp exclusively for women and taught by women instructors. We also offer women's fly casting clinics and have a women's fly fishing club. Although as an outsider, it seems to me the club is merely an excuse for the ladies to get together and drink wine.

Be that as it may, whether it's fly fishing in general, tying flies, or casting a fly rod the women fly fishers that come in to my fly shop are just as passionate, just as addicted and often more proficient then many of our male customers at these activities. So be warned, when you're on the river looking down stream at some fly fisherman catching ten fish to your one, that "fisher man" may very well be a "fisher lady".

Robert Younghanz, aka The Bug Guy, is a guide and instructor at The Angler's Covey Fly Shop. For more information on aquatic entomology for the Rocky Mountain West, check out Robert's nationally best selling 2 DVD set. The Bug Guy: Aquatic Entomology for the Fly Fisher; www.the-bug-guy.com/dvd.php or contact Robert at: www.robertyoungchanzflyfishing.com

Advanced Entomology Lecture and Streamside Class is a 2 part class. The next class is Wednesday April 10th (Lecture) at Angler's Covey Fly Shop and Sunday April 14th (Streamside) in 11 Mile Canyon. The class is \$90.00 plus \$20.00 for the insect collecting kit, which the student gets to keep. Please call (719) 471-2984 for more information.

Preliminary report on a fossil bone from the Jurassic period

Teddy Reeves, Earth Science Scholar, Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society

A fossil dinosaur bone was found on private ranchland near the Garden Park area, Fremont County, Colorado. Garden Park is in south-central Colorado, and is known for its Jurassic dinosaurs. It contains the Pikes Peak area's most famous dinosaur beds and is about an hour's drive from the Florissant Fossil beds, where plants and insects were trapped in the shales of an Eocene-age lake.

The dinosaur fossil was found in rock of the Jurassic Morrison Formation. The ancient bone was found in a unit of fine-grained sandstone (fragments ranging between 1/16 millimeters and 2 millimeters) in the Morrison Formation. Sandstone is a sedimentary rock composed of grains of any type of mineral or rock fragments. Most sandstones consist primarily of the mineral quartz with small amounts of a number of other minerals.

Scientists have reviewed photos of the prehistoric bone (figure 1). According to Dr. Ian Miller at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, this could be a dinosaur bone, but it is too worn and incomplete to identify. The bone is only a fragment of a larger bone; if it was a complete bone, it would be easier to identify. The fossil can be recognized as a bone because Haversian



Image of dinosaur bone fragment form the Morrison Formation at Garden Park, Colorado. Photo © S.W. Veatch.

canals are visible at each end of the fossil per Steven Veatch. Haversian canals look like little tubes inside a bone.

Scientists at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science agree, and believe that, since the bone is not hollow and the Haversian canals are notable, it likely belongs to a sauropod—a large plant-eater. To me, this

looks like part of a leg bone. If we had more bones that belonged to the creature, for instance, a skull or a hip, we might be able to tell what it is. Each species of dinosaur has a different type of skull and some species of dinosaurs have different types of hips. For instance, theropods (such as Allosaurus) and sauropods (such as Diplodocus) are the two types of dinosaurs that are saurischians, or "lizard-hipped".

Because the fossil is too incomplete,

About the author:

Teddy Reeves is a 12 year old student in 7th grade at Immanuel Lutheran School in Loveland, Colorado. Teddy is also a member of the Western Interior Paleontological Society. Interests include paleontology, acting, playing the piano, and Lego Robotics. He will soon be moving to Alberta, Canada. He is looking forward to learning more about the Burgess Shale and visiting the Royal Tyrrell Museum.



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Excitotoxins: What you may not know

by Carol Grieve

Wikipedia describes excitotoxicity as the pathological process by which nerve cells are damaged and killed by excessive stimulation by neurotransmitters such as glutamate and similar substances. In layman’s terms, an excitotoxin is any substance that causes the brain cells to become very excited. When these cells start firing their impulses very rapidly, the cells become so exhausted that they die.

Now, that description may not mean a whole lot to you, but let’s dig a little deeper and figure out what we are really talking about.

An excitotoxin is a chemical that causes a brain cell to become overexcited and fire uncontrollably, leading to cell death. MSG and other excitotoxins like aspartame have the potential for inflicting permanent damage to the brain and nervous system. These chemicals also cross the placental barrier, harming the brains of unborn children. These substances, usually acidic amino acids, react with specialized receptors in the brain in such a way as to lead to destruction of certain types of neurons. Glutamate is one of the more commonly known excitotoxins. However, over 70 have thus far been identified. MSG is the sodium salt of glutamate. Glutamate is a normal neurotransmitter in the brain. It is the most commonly used neurotransmitter by the brain. Defenders of MSG and aspartame usually say: How could a substance that is used normally by the brain cause harm? This is because, glutamate, as a neurotransmitter, exists in the extracellular fluid only in very, very small concentrations --- no more than 8 to 12uM. When the concentration of this transmitter rises above this level, the neurons begin to fire abnormally. At higher concentrations, the cells undergo this specialized process of delayed cell death, excitotoxicity. That is, they are excited to death.

Dr. Richard Blaylock, retired neurosurgeon states, “When subtoxic levels of excitotoxins are given to animals in divided doses, they experience full toxicity, i.e., they are synergistic. Also, liquid forms of excitotoxins, as occurs in soups, gravies and diet soft drinks are more toxic than that added to solid foods.

This is because they are more rapidly absorbed and reach higher blood levels. If you are eating any type of processed diet food, you are eating many excitotoxins.”

What if excitotoxins could possibly aggravate or even precipitate many of the neurodegenerative brain disorders such as migraines, seizures, infections, abnormal neural development, certain endocrine disorders, specific types of obesity as well as the neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s disease, Huntington’s disease, ALS, and Alzheimer’s disease?

Would you be concerned if you knew that these excitotoxin food additives are a particular risk if you have ever had a stroke, brain injury, brain tumor, seizure, or have suffered from hypertension, diabetes, meningitis or viral encephalitis? Do I have your attention yet?

Excitotoxins are not present in just a few foods, but rather in almost all processed foods. In many cases they are being added in disguised forms, such as natural flavoring, spices, yeast extract, textured protein, soy protein extract, etc.

In neuroscience, the study of excitotoxins is a hot topic. Yet, how many of you have ever heard of this until now? This is very much by design. The number one source of excitotoxins is in your food--not natural food, but almost all processed foods. The companies that use excitotoxins to make their food “taste” better have a vested interest in you NOT knowing about excitotoxins and that is called profit. These companies go to great length to disguise the names of some of these excitotoxins, especially MSG. Most of us have heard of MSG and avoid it. However, they have changed the names for MSG and it is still in many products that you may not be aware of. Some of these hidden names are: hydrolyzed vegetable protein, vegetable protein, textured protein, whey protein extract, enzymes, yeast extract, spices, carrageenan, broth and stock, to name a few. Campbell’s soup for example can contain as many as four different types of excitotoxins!

Many of you may be thinking, “Okay I will avoid MSG and Aspartame,” but there is more. You need to know that there are over

40 hidden names for MSG on food labels. FORTY?!? Yes. 40! So, foods labeled NO-MSG or MSG-Free (think Chinese restaurants) may not have actual MSG added to it, but if they contain any of these ingredients, there is STILL MSG IN THE FOOD. See sidebar “Names of ingredients that ALWAYS contain processed free glutamic acid”.

Another excitotoxin additive that you are most likely familiar with is the artificial sweetener, NutraSweet, also known under other names. Nearly 50% of this compound is composed of the excitotoxin aspartate. Much like glutamate, aspartame acts very similarly to the way that glutamate acts--killing brain cells by allowing too much calcium into the cell. It triggers excessive amounts of free radicals which kill the cells. NutraSweet is used in many diet foods and beverages. Again, it is well-recognized that liquid forms of excitotoxins are much more toxic to the brain than the dry forms--as they are absorbed more quickly and produce higher blood levels than when they are mixed with dry food.

Aspartame is made up of three chemicals: aspartic acid, phenylalanine and methanol. Aspartic acid is a powerful excitotoxin--as powerful as glutamate. Phenylnalaline can cause mental retardation in children, emotional disorders, depression, and makes ones susceptible to seizures. Methanol is a wood alcohol that is a deadly poison. It is broken down to formic acid and formaldehyde.

Symptoms of methanol poisoning include: headaches, ear buzzing, dizziness, gastrointestinal disturbances, weakness, vertigo, chills and memory lapses. The most well known problems from methanol poisoning are vision related, including misty vision, blurring of the vision, retinal damage, and blindness.

Carrageenan is a rather new additive and an excitotoxin. It is a complex polysaccharide extract made from seaweed and is used as a binding agent. Experimentally, carrageenan is used as an agent to induce intense inflammation in experimental animals. A recent study (<http://www.cornucopia.org/CornucopiaAnaly->



Carol Grieve

sisofCarrageenanHealthImpacts042612.pdf) found that when carrageenan was injected in animals along with a cancer-causing chemical, tumors appeared more rapidly and in significantly higher numbers than in control animals injected with carcinogen alone. The same was seen when human breast cancers were implanted in animals along with carrageenan: the combination made the tumors grow faster and spread more widely than in control animals. As a result, carrageenan is classified as a tumor promoter. Unfortunately, carrageenan can even be found in some organic products, like almond milk.


For more information on excitotoxins, I highly recommend you read the book, “Excitotoxins. The Tastes that Kills” or watch Dr. Russell Blaylock’s YouTube video by the same name.

Given all the information we know so far about excitotoxins, it’s just one more reason, in the ever-growing long list, of reasons to avoid processed food.


If you have questions or comments or for wellness coaching, please email me at carol@foodintegritynow.org.

Names of ingredients that ALWAYS contain processed free glutamic acid:

Glutamic acid	Yeast nutrient
Glutamate	Autolyzed yeast
Monosodium glutamate	Gelatin
Monopotassium glutamate	Textured protein
Calcium glutamate	Soy protein
Monoammonium glutamate	Soy protein concentrate
Magnesium glutamate	Soy protein isolate
Natrium glutamate	Whey protein
Yeast extract	Whey protein concentrate
Anything “hydrolyzed”	Whey protein isolate
Any “hydrolyzed protein”	Anything “...protein”
Calcium caseinate	Vetsin
Sodium caseinate	Ajinomoto
Yeast food	



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Help Yourself Reduce Investment Stress

You probably aren't too worried about it, but April is Stress Awareness Month. Each year, the Health Resource Network sponsors this "month" to inform people about the dangers of stress and to share successful coping strategies. Obviously, it's important to reduce stress in all walks of life — including your investment activities. How can you cut down on the various stresses associated with investing?

- Here are a few possible "stress-busters":
- **Know your risk tolerance.** If you're constantly worrying about the value of your investments, your portfolio may simply be too volatile for your individual risk tolerance. Conversely, if you're always feeling that your investments will never provide you with the growth you need to achieve your long-term goals, you might be investing too conservatively.
 - **Know what to expect from your investments.** Uncertainty is often a leading cause of stress. So when you purchase investments that are mysterious to you, you shouldn't be surprised if they perform in ways that raise your stress levels. Never invest in something unless you fully understand its characteristics and risk potential.
 - **Be prepared for market volatility.** Over the long term, the financial markets have trended upward, though their past performance can't guarantee future results. Yet for periods of months, and even years, these same markets can sputter and decline. So when you invest, be aware of this volatility; if you're prepared for it, you won't be shocked when it happens, and you should be able to better keep stress at bay.
 - **Maintain realistic expectations.** If you think your investments are going to earn a very high rate of return, year after year, you are more than likely going to be

disappointed — and you could easily get "stressed out." You're much better off, from a stress standpoint, not to expect eye-popping results.

- **Diversify your portfolio.** If you were only to own one asset class, such as growth stocks, and that particular segment took a big hit during a market drop, your whole portfolio could suffer, and it could take years to recover — causing you no end of stress. But if you spread your investment dollars among a range of vehicles — stocks, bonds, government securities and so on — your portfolio has a better chance of weathering the ups and downs of the market. (Keep in mind, though, that while diversification may help you reduce the effects of volatility, it can't prevent losses or guarantee profits.)
- **Think long term.** If you only measure your investment success by short-term results, you can feel frustrated and stressed. But when you stop to consider your objectives, you may find that the most important ones, such as a comfortable retirement, are all long-term in nature. Consequently, it makes more sense to measure the progress you're making with your investments in periods of years, or even decades, rather than days or months. Instead of fretting over your monthly investment statements, compare where you are today versus where you were 10 or 15 years ago. The results may well surprise and help "de-stress" you.

Stress Awareness Month will come and go. But by making the right moves, you can help take some of the stress out of investing for a long time to come.

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

Changes at the Lake George Post Office

by Maurice Wells
photo by Maurice Wells

In an effort to reduce costs, the United States Postal Service is making nation-wide changes to postal services in local offices. Juan Munoz, Regional Manager, met with over 60 Lake George residents on Thursday, March 28, to discuss the latest changes due for the post office. Prior to this meeting, a survey to capture the community desires was sent out. Mr. Munoz emphasized that there were no plans to close the post office, only to reduce the number of hours there would be window service.

Following a heated discussion pertaining to the impact of the changes, the feelings of the audience were that the weekday hours would be 10AM to 5PM with no changes in the Saturday hours of 9AM to 12:30PM.

Mr. Munoz indicated that the mail sorting facility in Colorado Springs would close this summer, leaving the Denver facility the only one remaining open. This means all local mail will go to Denver for sorting. He further indicated that Congress sets the overall policy for the USPS, but no federal funds are provided for the operation.




Juan Munoz fields questions about the changes

The dates for implementation of the new plan will be published shortly. For additional information go to "usps.com/ourfuturenetwork" and click on the link under "Preserving Post offices".


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My name is Petunia. I am a 3 year young, beautiful kitty. I am the type to keep to myself until I am ready for some good attention. I love to have my head scratched. I am hoping my new forever home has some of the basics for me. I am hoping for some toys and maybe even a cat tower! If you keep a watchful eye out, you might just catch me having some fun with toys! I like to be around other cats, but not all of them, I can be a bit choosy. Are you my special person who will take me home and love me forever? If you adopt me I promise to love you forever! 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! Wwww.tcrascolorado.com





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Woodland Park Youth Job Fair - Ute Pass Cultural Center, April 9th

The Pikes Peak Workforce Center and the School to Work Alliance program announce the annual Governor’s Summer Job Hunt Youth Job Fair in Woodland Park.

“Providing summer employment for our young adults will help them learn the required interpersonal skills needed to be successful as future members of the workforce,” says Dave Paul. “I urge all employers in Teller County who are able to offer a position to a young person to please take advantage of the opportunity to do so at the Youth Job Fair.”

Youth in Teller County, ages 16 through 21, are invited to meet with employers hiring for summer positions at the Ute Pass Cultural Center on Tuesday, April 9th from 1 to 5 p.m. Youth must be at least 16 years old to participate.

Current employers planning to attend the Youth Job Fair include: The North Pole/Santa’s Workshop, Aramark, Legends and Legacy

Youth Corps, Cripple Creek/Victor Gold Mine. Youth should pre-register at www.ppwfc.org, click on the yellow tab and then Youth Job Fairs.

Employers interested in booth space, should contact Bob Gemignani at 719.667.3829 or bobgemignani@elpasoco.com or Megan DeSmidt at 719.491.6036 or mdesmidt@wpsdk12.org

Job fair attendees should dress appropriately; bring multiple copies of their résumés, and application information to help them fill out applications.

About the Youth Work Zone

The Youth Work Zone supports education and promotes employment for youth in El Paso and Teller counties by providing youth opportunities. More information about the Youth Work Zone can be found online at www.ppwfc.org.



PPRH offers free classes!

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital’s “Joint Replacement Center” offers free classes twice a month to help educate candidates for joint replacement of what to expect, how to prepare and learn about the surgery. Dr. Michael Messner is the Medical Director for the Center and the class is taught by Registered Nurses.

This class is designed to go over all aspects of a total joint replacement. The attendees (along with their spouses or caregivers) can ask questions, watch animated videos and discuss the process with instructors.

One local resident who knew, when she couldn’t walk to the

back of Walmart, it was time to get both her knees replaced. Today she not only shops to her heart’s content but hikes many area trails. She feels she really has a new lease on life!”

Classes are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 2-4pm at the hospital. Registration is required. Attendees only need to attend one class, which is repeated for the convenience of the public.

For more information, please contact the Program Coordinator, Wendy Westall, RN, at 719-686-5779. To register for an upcoming class you may contact the hospital at the main number, 719-687-9999, x5769.

“Alverta Burns - Angel of the Hills” exhibit

The Ute Pass Historical Society, in conjunction with the Pikes Peak Regional Medical Center Foundation, presents “Alverta Burns: Angel of the Hills,” an exhibit featuring vintage photographs, medical artifacts and clothing from the lifetime of one of our area’s most respected residents of the last century.

Even as late as the 1950s, many remote areas in Colorado did not have resident or even visiting physicians, including Teller County. Fortunately, Teller County had Alverta Burns, a kind ranch wife and registered nurse with a tireless compassion for healing. Alverta’s selfless service was a blessing to area families, friends and neighbors. Her remarkable commitment to the ill and infirm was the subject of a 1956 *Saturday Evening Post* magazine article.

Alverta’s story and many of the everyday objects from her nursing profession are featured in the display, including her medicine bag and nurse’s uniform (courtesy of the Burns family of Woodland Park). The exhibit runs through May in the Pikes Peak Regional Hospital lobby. For more information, contact Karla Schweitzer at 719-686-7512 or via email at uphs@peakinter.net.



~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.

FLORISSANT

5 Lissa Hanner & Chuck perform at the Thunderbird 7pm. No cover. This dynamic duo has an amazing sound and an incredible mix of music. Come listen and have an enjoyable evening at the T-Bird. Corner of Hwy 24 & CR1.

FLORISSANT GRANGE

6 The 2nd Musicians Swap meet will be April 6th from 9:00 to 3:00. Bring the equipment you wish to sell, or come shopping for equipment you may need. See you there. For more information call 748-0358

13 Sewing Day. Our Project will be a Sewing Caddy and Pin Cushion. This handy item hangs in front of your machine so your scissors and pins are right there and has a pocket for treads and other items that usually end up on the floor. This is a very handy thing to have. If you don’t want to make this sewing project, feel free to bring your own or we will have instructions on past sewing projects...or just sit and have some quite sewing time. Bring your machine if you have one, or use one of ours. This is a great “learn to sew” project. 748-0358

20 It is time for the Annual Chili Cook Off and Entertainment Event!! April 20th is the date, from Noon to 3:00 pm. Enter

your Chili into our Chili Cook off for only \$10. These funds go toward the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. OR... bake a pie (or several pies) and donate it/ them to our pie auction. This silent auction is the fundraising part of the day. All funds go the “Old School House” renovation project. Enjoy your favorite bowl of Chili and the fixins for a suggested donation of \$5.00 and listen to some of THE BEST entertainment in the area. We have a great line up this year, so DON’T MISS THIS EVENT!!! 748.0358

27 The second Gardening Forum or “Round Table Discussion” will be held April 27th from 1-3pm. Join us and talk about your success and your failures. Listen to other ideas and suggestions. Learn what grows well and what doesn’t. Learn about different planting methods and so much more. You should have your seedlings planted and by the end of April you should have some growing quite well. If you do and you have too many, bring some along and we will also have a seedling exchange and a seed exchange. We hope to see you there. 748-0358

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.

FLORISSANT LIBRARY

14 “Saved in time: The Fight to Establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument” presented by Dr. Herb Meyer at 2pm. For more information, call 719-748-3562.

HARTSEL

13 Harvest Center – food pantry between 2-3pm

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.

WOODLAND PARK

7 “Shades of Love” at Ute Pass

Cultural Center, 3:00pm. Woodland Park Community Singers explore the theme of love through a variety of songs. They will be joined by special guest Corner Street Dance of Woodland Park. Ute Pass Cultural Center 210 E. Midland Ave Free family fun. Contact Irwin 719-748-8523. Member Mountain Arts Council Contact: Irwin 719 748 8523

9 Woodland Park Youth Job Fair - For Teller County youth, ages 16-21, 1-5 p.m., Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park. Registration required: www.ppwfc.org.

12 Crabby Tax Night at Shining Mountain Golf Club. Two seatings, 5:30-6:30, and 7-8. Cash Bar. Tickets available at the Shining Mountain Golf Club, Gold Hills Liquor, Mangia Mangia, City Market, Paradise Spirits - \$25/ea. Crab, fries, cole slaw, and a beverage. Door Prizes at each seating. Ute Pass Kiwanis sponsors this annual event and proceeds go to scholarships for high school seniors at both Woodland Park and Cripple Creek - Victor high schools. Questions? Call 323-8782.

27 FREE EVENT: Join Jimena in this informative class “Introduction to Reiki, Hands-on-healing, and QFM-Quest for Mastery Program.” All these are Tools for Conscious Living

and will be presented for anyone who wants to understand what it is, and what is not; also for those that are ready to take the next step in their growth and evolution. Class is held on Lower level of Woodland Park Public Library at 2:30 pm. For information call Jimena at 719-306-0772 or email Jimena. yantorno@gmail.com

27 Early Childhood Festival at Ute Pass Cultural Center. There is so much to see and do at this children’s festival! Visit the game area, discovery zone, bounce house, and the 20 hands-on activity booths represented by our early childhood community leaders. On stage performances: 9:15 - 9:45 Celtic Steps, 10:00 - 10:45 Dana’s Dance, from 11:00 - 11:45 Corner Street Dance. Come see what programs and services are available for early childhood in or community. FREE Admission. Visit our website for a list of orgs represented.

WP DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER

6 Free Scout Day-RESCHEDULED!: Due to the bad weather on Sat., March 9th. DRC is rescheduling our free Scout day to Sat., April 6th. Scouts and leaders in uniform receive free admission to the

DRC. Nature’s Educators will be giving two presentations at 11:30am-2pm and will be hosting an interactive table for Scout Day! Come learn about raptors and reptiles and how they are related to dinosaurs or other prehistoric animals. Find out some great facts about these amazing predatory animals. Dinosaur Ridge will also be here with an activity table from 9am-4pm.

20 Earth Day Celebration: Fountain Creek Nature Center will have 2 presentations at 11:30am and 1:30pm. The 11:30am show is titled “Bugs, bugs, bugs? No, they’re Arthropods!” This includes a puppet show, a short presentation on arthropods, an interactive build-a-bug component, and then a round of bug jeopardy played by teams made up of the group present; trays of bug specimens, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and a live tarantula named Rosie. The 1:30pm show includes a variety of active games that parents and kids can participate in and then do on their own. They will discuss the various senses and awareness that come from playing: Ninja Turtle, Head Hondo, Cougar Stalks Deer, Run Rabbit Run and Sleeping Fawn to name a few. For more info on either event see website www.rmdr.com

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