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Vol. 6, No. 6

## Welcome to Ute Country

"I have fished through fishless days that I remember happily without regret."

Roderick Haig-Brown



### PEEK INSIDE...



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Austin Family Farm



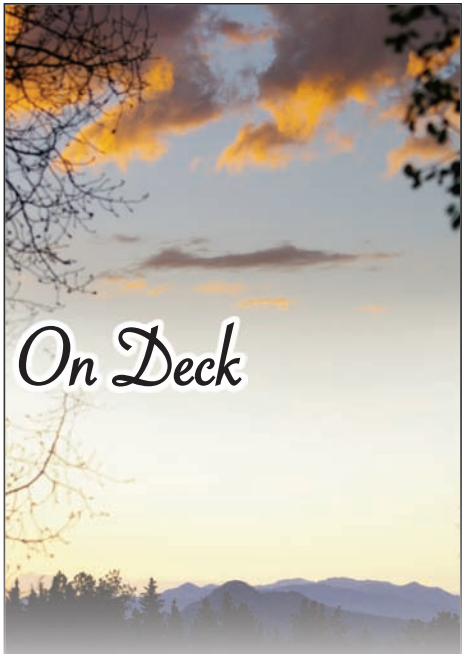
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Day away destination: Paonia



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Painting the town, fire-engine red!



This month's cover was taken at Elevenmile Canyon in September of 2013. It is always a pleasant drive and you never know what you'll come across. It was a perfect day for a drive and for taking photos. Then again, I can't recall an ugly day in Elevenmile Canyon.

Sometimes it's important to keep yourself open to trying new ideas. Jeff just had too many photos to fit in this issue and began to consider changing the front page to include more photos, instead of the table of contents. We hope you like the change.

This issue is packed with lots of fun stories, recollections of history, current events and Out & About has lots to offer. As always, please feel free to send us items of interest, events, happenings, and please feel free to consider us a great place to let your advertising dollars stretch from Green Mountain Falls up the Hwy 24 corridor to Breckenridge, and south to Victor.

Mr. Spaz, our photo editor, was pleased to paw through a few local picks. He's happy warmer weather has come upon us as it gives a chance for a window seat. He's wondering how many of his friends in Teller & Park Counties also enjoy a window seat opportunity that just might be willing to ham it up for the human with a camera. Please send Mr. Spaz your Critter Corner pics at [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com)

Feel free to contact us via email [utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com) or phone 719-686-7393. Make sure we have the chance to help you spread your word!

Thank you,  
—Kathy & Jeff Hansen

A special thanks to all listed here for their professional work and time to make this possible. If you have any questions please contact the publishers.

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## Judge Castello in Florissant

by Linda Borklund  
photos by Linda Borklund

James Castello came to Colorado in 1859 from his home in Florissant, Missouri, to explore Pike's Peak area mining possibilities. Formerly a county sheriff in Missouri, he took part in miners' meetings to solve problems that fell to the miners' organization. Castello settled in Fairplay and sent for his wife and five of their children in 1863. He was soon appointed a county judge and served as a senator for the Colorado Territory. In 1868 he was appointed as receiver for the U.S. Land Office in Fairplay.

Judge Castello and his wife, Catherine, ran a hotel in Fairplay that was described as "a spacious log hotel kept by the genial and loyal Judge Castello." The two Castello daughters married local men. When Judge Castello decided to move in 1868 to the town that was then called Twin Fork, the description of the property in the deed for his Fairplay hotel included two billiard tables and a bar.

Castello had become involved with Indian affairs, as he had made it a point to encourage the Utes to trade at his trading post. The Castello family — the Judge, wife Catherine, and the three boys — built a home just north of the Ute Pass Trail and very close to the usual camping ground of Chief Ouray. Thus he founded the town and its name was changed from Twin Fork to Florissant, after his hometown in Missouri.

The Castello cabin, built at the base of Fortification Hill, soon included a trading post, a mercantile store and a hotel with overnight accommodations.

On January 23, 1875, an article appeared in the Colorado Springs Gazette with the heading, "Murdered by Indians." The story unfolded.

J. Pleasant Marksbury was a rancher who lived with his wife and five children about 16 miles from Florissant on Tarryall Creek. He had come to Judge Castello's store to pick up letters and groceries. As he left the store, he discovered that his pony was gone, having been stripped of its saddle and bridle, which were left in the dust. He stormed back into the store and accosted a Ute Indian there named Shawano. Marksbury had purchased the pony from a man named Nat Colby in Colorado Springs. Colby had told him that the Utes were trading off some of their ponies and he had purchased this one for \$20 and a revolver. In the Castello store Shawano insisted that the pony was stolen and the Utes who took it were just taking back their own property.

Marksbury was encouraged to notify the local Indian Agent, Major Thompson, and the local Ute Chief Ouray about the incident. He attempted to notify them, but became impatient when he received no answer. He somehow learned that the Indians had an encampment nearby and the pony in question was with them.

Marksbury took a young friend with him and they found the pony at the encampment. Marksbury mounted the pony and the young man was leading it down the trail. They traveled about 60 yards before a shot was heard from behind the trees close to the trail. According to his young friend, Marksbury's last words were, "Oh! God! I am killed. Shot through the heart." The young friend quickly decided that there was nothing he could do so he ran off.

An inquisition was held in which it was determined that Marksbury came to his death by a shot fired by a Ute Indian belonging to Shawano's band. Indian Agent Thompson immediately telegraphed the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington and received the reply that he should proceed at once to Florissant and arrest the murderer of Marksbury.

Major Thompson met with Chief Ouray at Judge Castello's store to discuss the situation. The Ute Indian Tabweah was found to be the one who had shot Marksbury and he was arrested and lodged in the county jail. Chief Ouray brought in another Ute named Antelope,



Castello home at the base of Fortification Hill



Marksbury gravestone

who claimed that he was the owner of the pony and insisted that he never sold it to Colby. He admitted, however, that it was possible that another Ute had disposed of the pony without his knowledge.

Antelope and Tabweah came up with the story that Tabweah had shot Marksbury in self-defense. They claimed that they had tried to induce Marksbury to surrender the animal but that Marksbury had made threatening demonstrations with his rifle, the result being that Tabweah fired his own weapon and killed his adversary.

Major Thompson later related in his memoirs that "every effort was made and every opportunity offered the friends of Marksbury" to produce evidence to convict the Indian Tabweah for the murder. Thompson went on to state that, "no direct evidence was offered or produced, and after holding the prisoner for two months, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington ordered his release."

Whatever the truth might have been, James Pleasant Marksbury was buried in a cemetery now called the Lake George Cemetery. His original stone displayed the name "Summit" Marksbury, but has recently been replaced with a red stone marker engraved with his real name, James P. Marksbury.



Castello Mercantile (was on the left, the Drug Store was on the right)

### More Mountain Mayhem

The February 23, 1878, edition of the Colorado Springs Gazette told of The Capture of Miller and Klawen. A local rancher, Mr. Tubbs, noticed that two suspicious men had passed by his ranch and he began to question the neighbors about their activities. A \$200 reward had recently been offered for the apprehension of two thieves known to be in the area.

The two thieves soon found another victim to rob. They made a midnight raid on the house and store of Judge Castello and carried away a number of articles. One of the thieves, Klawen, was so brazen that he even entered the room where Frank Castello (the Judge's son) was sleeping, lit a match and coolly looked around to see if there was anything else he could pilfer. He found nothing additional, so both robbers left the store.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tubbs had gathered local ranchers and they made a plan to capture the two robbers and collect the reward. It was just at dark that they found the camp of the two thieves. The ranchers formulated a plan of attack and appeared at the campsite the following morning, encircled the area, and called upon the men to surrender. The robbers

walked in. The men immediately drew two revolvers and a Winchester and demanded that the doors and windows be closed and bolted, and that all the money be handed over to them. One of the clerks, Putnam, grabbed a club and tried to threaten the men, but they fell on him and beat him until he lay insensible on the floor. Castello pleaded with the men for Putnam's life and promised them all the money that he had there. The thieves pocketed over \$400, then unbolted the door and ran for the brush.

Meanwhile a number of citizens had noticed the fray and followed the three robbers, who headed for the hills. There was shooting from everywhere. The thieves finally were cornered behind a barrier of rocks in Four Mile Canyon. More shots were exchanged. One of the robbers was killed and another fatally wounded and three horses were killed, but no damage was suffered by the pursuing party. The local sheriff assured the citizens that the booty would be secured and returned.

The original log cabin and the old Castello Trading Post is gone, but the house where the family lived is there at the base of Fortification Hill, as are several old outbuildings. The building that was once the Castello Mercantile and the Drug Store still stands.

## The Legacy of James John Hagerman - Part 5

by David Martinek

In Hagerman's memoirs, he notes: "In October 1884, we returned to Milwaukee [and]... on the doctors' advice we went to Colorado Springs for the winter, with nothing settled for the future."

### Coming to Colorado

Some authors speculate that Hagerman was sent to Colorado Springs by Santa Fe Railroad investors to scope out the possibility of new routes through the Rockies. The general consensus, however, is that he went there for the reasons he stated — to recuperate. That would certainly coincide with the uncertainties Hagerman expressed about the future being unsettled. As it turned out, events and plans eventually led to changes and new opportunities— changes and opportunities that perhaps in Hagerman's mind he subconsciously knew would come; he just may not have known what they would be. As Percy Hagerman wrote, "He knew before he came back [to the United States] that he was going to make a radical change of some sort."

After spending the winter in Colorado, they thought of settling in Denver, southern California or maybe Arizona. But they finally decided on Colorado Springs hoping the dry air and high altitude would continue to improve Hagerman's health. Thousands of others with tuberculosis and other lung ailments were flocking to the Front Range of the Rockies, as well — to Colorado Springs and Manitou Springs — so perhaps the decision seemed logical (further evidence that Hagerman moved to Colorado Springs for his health and not as directed by Santa Fe investors).

After closing much of his business affairs in Milwaukee and selling their house, Hagerman and his family traveled west and began building a large, three-story home on Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs, intent on nestling down to a life of leisure. Winfield Scott Stratton, later one of the Cripple Creek millionaires, was the carpenter who finished the interior of the Hagerman house.

Looking back, Hagerman wrote in 1905 that when they came to Colorado Springs "the town was as dead as Julius Caesar...there was no business worth mentioning and little hope for a future. Real estate could be bought for a song. The deposits in the two little banks were insignificant and few of their loans could be collected."

Percy recalled that "his (father's) intention was not to enter very active business again. He had sufficient fortune to live comfortably and his health had so long been a matter of serious concern that he did not believe that he would again be able to work as he had always done."

But Hagerman's proclivity for getting involved in business adventures would not suffer the idleness he felt as his health improved. With a handsome fortune to spend in a sleepy mountain town, it was probably natural and ordained for Hagerman to want to fill the void.

He wrote, "I did not expect to engage in any absorbing business there [in Colorado Springs], but my health having so far returned that I felt better than for many years, the first thing I knew,...I was buried in work."

In addition to building their house, Hagerman later became a stockholder in the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, a relationship that would eventually lead to a railroad connection. But there were also mining activities going on in various parts of the state which caught Hagerman's attention and interest.

### An interest in mining

Percy wrote in his biography of his father that he "longed to be doing something active. The air was full of stories of new mining... and the first things in which he became interested



The Hagerman home on Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs. Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library

were some mining ventures in Leadville and Aspen, a new camp on the western slope. Aspen was a camp of great promise about 50 miles west of Leadville across the Continental Divide, cut off from the rest of the world by lack of transportation and with no great chance of development until that lack is remedied."

As a mining industrialist, Hagerman was naturally drawn to the silver boom that was developing in Aspen and Leadville in the early 1880s. After selling his property and interest in the Menominee Mining Company, he had ample capital to invest in some mining claims fairly

the common obstacle in all cases was the lack of good transport that Percy identified. If only there was a railroad to efficiently haul the silver ore to the smelters or the coal to where it could be sold and used. If that road could be expanded to connect with other roads, leading perhaps as far as the Pacific coast, i.e., through Salt Lake City — well, there was much to be imagined.

Perhaps Hagerman thought back to how profitable the Menominee Mining Company had become because the Chicago and Northwestern Railway had built a branch line to connect the iron range in the Upper Peninsula



Looking west on Pikes Peak Avenue in Colorado Springs at the Antlers Hotel, circa 1884. Hagerman said that the 'town was a dead as Julius Caesar' when they arrived. Photo courtesy of Denver Public Library

early and would eventually acquire a significant ownership in the very profitable Molly Gibson silver mine in Aspen. He also invested in the Isabella gold mine in Victor, closer to home.

In addition, he learned of the great coal reserves in the areas around Glenwood Springs and New Castle which had great potential. He invested in some coal mining adventures in the Elk Creek area, but in the early days these operations were not profitable since the smelters in Leadville didn't need a lot of coal. It wasn't until later when more coal began to be used by the railroads and when it was converted to coke that his investment made a return.

Both the mining adventures in Aspen and Cripple Creek and the coal investment in Elk Creek will be covered in later chapters, but

of Michigan to the Great Lakes. Why couldn't something like that happen in the Rockies?

So the difficulty of exploiting the silver and coal mines was, as Percy wrote, because there was no speedy mode of transport serving either Aspen or the coal fields. The Denver and Rio Grande railroad (the "D&RG") was the only line nearby, then a narrow gauge extending as far west as Leadville; and it was in financial trouble. But beyond Leadville to the west, the Sawatch Mountain Range loomed well over 14,000 feet marking the Continental Divide and making the prospect of bringing future railroad service to the area a gigantic engineering challenge. There was much to be imagined, indeed.

(to be continued next month)

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## Austin Family Farm: Dedication to family, fresh food, and sound farming fundamentals

by Kathy Hansen

Perhaps you've heard the expression, "Those who can, do. Those who know, teach." When it comes to farming, Glenn and Tony Austin are folks you might just want to pay attention to; they can do both! This article is a meager attempt to convey a wealth of knowledge gained by touring the Austin Family Farm, located on the edge of Colorado's West Elk Mountains.

Glenn and Tony moved to their farm in 1970, from Tennessee. They brought with them generations of farming experience as their families have been in the farming industry since the 1700s. They needed to make a few adjustments as the climate and altitude of Colorado surely presented new hurdles to master.

One of the first comments Glenn made to me was, "Please keep in mind; what works for me on this land, may not work for you on your area. But you just might pick up a few tips." This introduction helped me to recognize that each plot of land will come along with its own set of challenges as well as benefits.

Most of us who have gardening in our veins quickly come aware of the altitude challenge. While we cannot adjust completely for the lack of oxygen, we can take a good survey of the land we want to plant. Glenn was clear to point out that the slope and altitude can make a few days difference from the farm he points to on the east, which is a few days ahead of his harvest, and the farm he points to at the west, which is a few days after his harvest. This recognition may have been an early seed sprouting for the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, but I am getting ahead of myself.

Glenn found it beneficial for the water source on his property to be at one of the highest points, which is, indeed, lucky. This allows him to use gravity for irrigation systems, as opposed to having to pay to power the water to his many orchards. We shared a brief discussion about gray water and how it makes sense to use gray water when trying to grow crops in the high desert.

He also discussed the importance of soil: know what kind of soil you have. I joked with him that he actually has top soil as opposed to decomposed granite of Teller County. He said there was about three to four inches when they began, and under that is a layer that holds moisture, so he needs to consider methods to aerate or drain the soil to prevent root rot. He went on to say, no matter where you are farming, you ALWAYS need to amend soil because each crop will take something from it, and those nutrients must be replenished.

Glenn took us all around his orchards,

with Springer-spaniels Rowdy and his two latest offspring, Gus and Annie (who stole a heartstring that continues to vibrate. All Annie had to do was greet me and lay her head on my foot for a brief rest before the tour.)

We began with the apples, as they did. It was Jean Van Duzen, a friend of the family, who partnered with them to begin their now 7,000 fruit trees. Jean was dedicated to her medical practice, specializing in health and nutrition for children as she practiced on the Indian Reservation in Tuba City, AZ. They named the "My Jean" apple after her; it is a hearty, low acid variety that grows abundantly in their orchard.

The Austin's actually have four heirloom varieties of apples they developed on their property: Austin Gold (Colorado golden delicious, with a beautiful "blush" you just can't grow in California), Pheasant Jonagold, a Honeycrisp Type, and the My Jean. They grow a total of 16 varieties.

Glenn taught us more than we could have imagined, just about apples. He discussed the importance of having a hearty root stock that can tolerate the altitude, the sun, the rains, and the soil. Once solid root stock is established, you can begin the grafting process: He took his pocket knife out, let us know there is a "grafting" knife specifically for this purpose, showed a branch showing promise of next year's fruit and showed us how you attach it to a thicker part of the tree. The top part of the fruit you want to grow will attach itself to the thicker stock which will enable the fruit to grow on sturdy stock.

He said to be successful you need to grow what the market will bear. Grafting is one way to assure your root stock is hearty enough to support the types of apples (or other fruits) people are buying. Trends change and it's important to keep up. If your golden delicious show that beautiful blush the buyers are seeking, you'll sell more golden delicious if they have the blush.

I noticed his website mentioned their practices are "non-certified organic", as they go "beyond organic" and "gentler" than organic. I asked if he would help me understand what all of this means.

Glenn reminded me farming practices began to change in the 1940s when the first pesticides were developed around WWII. Prior to pesticides, farming practices were organic, and no harsh chemicals were used. Once pesticides came onto the scene, many other chemicals joined the band-wagon. When the term "organic" first came around, those practices aligned with his, and all was happy on the orchard.

Then the regulations began to change a little and the alignment diverged. In order to be a "certi-



Glenn Austin looks over his orchards. Photo by Jeff Hansen.

fied organic grower" the guidelines needed to be adhered to. There was a point when the guidelines felt unnatural and unnecessary, especially with the items on the approved list of sprays, which he found to be too harsh for his environment.

Glenn gave the example of the "coddling moth" which has a seven day life cycle. If this little bugger has made it onto your fruit, you'll need to spray the trees every seven days to harvest with something he'd prefer not to use. When I asked why he doesn't want to use the spray in accordance with the certified organic guidelines, he gave two reasons: you reach a limit on how much sun is lost through the screen of the insecticide, and the insects build immunity to the insecticide, rendering it useless. Then he shared the "gentler" solution as he led us to the choke-cherries.

"These are choke-cherries, all up and down this row. I grow it for the aphids." That statement took me by surprise. Glenn went on to explain that there are "predator insects" that are beneficial to have on your farm because they eat things like the coddling moth or aphids. Two examples of predator insects Glenn likes to have at the farm are "lace wings" and "lady bugs". If they are doing their job, they will eat the insects that are bugging your plants. However, if they run out, they will find another source, which may not be on your farm. So, to keep the predator insects abundant, he cleverly placed the line of choke-cherries between two orchard areas. Aphids love choke-cherries, the lace wing and lady bug love the aphids, and there is balance on the farm.

Glenn continued to remind us there is balance in all things, and everyone's life cycle is important. Sometimes the key is acceptance and recognize there is a role for all forms of life.

Seven generations provided proven methods that gave great results, such as his application of a combination of lime, sulfur, and oil that he blends together. None of these are harmful to the plants, other than the slight sun-screen affect. He gave other examples where he's had great success with the oil alone because it cuts off the air supply of the insect and they die before they can reproduce.

Glenn continued to guide us through rows of various fruit trees: nectarines, apricots, peaches, and cherries to name a few. Always considering the life of the farm and the life cycle of the trees, he reminded us that stone fruit trees have a life cycle of about 20 years. By making note of successes, as well as taking time to learn from failures, you can assure the orchard is always abundant.

Glenn gave an example of a type of plum tree he tried. He felt it never was a big producer. He reminded us that in most cases the fruit of the tree begins its production the year before it becomes a fruit, so you need to take time and consider variables before deciding if a tree should stay or go.

In the case of the plum tree, he felt it was a low producer, yielding very little fruit over a 10 year period, so it was time to try something else.

"Always learn from your failures," he said. "But use your own head and ask questions." He went on to say that several decades ago he asked growing black berries and was told they just can't grow up here, you never see them. He recalled seeing wild raspberries and black berries; after all, that's one of the bear's staples. He found he had great success with his black berries and might just replace those plum trees with black berries.

As we continued to move through the orchard, we came closer to what appeared to be windmills. Jeff wondered why they were still, as there was a gentle breeze that day and surely the windmill could wind up some potential energy. Glenn clarified that the windmills are on the property to help even out the temperature when our climate goes through those "inversion" periods, when the warm air needs to mix with the cool air in order to prevent frost. He turns them on during those crucial periods because it is a very efficient way to even out the temperature, and cost effective, too!

Next we came across the bee hives and the three "Abeegos", brothers Eric and Clay Carney, with cousin, William Austin. Eric was only eight years old when he had attended a seminar with Glenn and Tony when he was introduced to bee keeping. The presentation created quite the buzz within him that just wouldn't quit. Glenn purchased their first 12 colonies and the equipment necessary to get started. The boys continue to work with a mentor and attend seminars as another branch of the Austin Family Farm grows a new limb.

It is no surprise that each family member has the opportunity to develop whatever interests suit the individual. Glenn and Tony have found while some of their four children stayed right on the farm, others went off to college to earn a degree that could benefit the farm and returned to share their expertise. Talk about sustainability!

Back to the bees. My first assumption was they had the bees for honey - wrong! To Glenn they are pollinators, "every blossom needs to be visited by about 70 bees." They have been through a few different species and find what works best. Glenn guesses they have harvested about 25 barrels of honey (that is a 660 lb. barrel).

While I kept coming back to the honey, I wondered if they are ever visited by bears. Evidently, bears usually visit at night. My assumption here was that the bear would go for the honey - wrong again! The bear go directly for the protein source, the bees themselves. Ouch!

Speaking of good protein sources, the Austin Family added chickens to their farm about four or five years ago; new species, new learning curve and a family up to the challenge. The

continued on next page

chickens had a lot to teach the Austins.

They learned that chickens really like eating woolly aphids, along with most other insects, as well as the occasional vole. So they had a roaming chicken corral as it were. This allowed the chickens to eat insects that were infesting specific trees, allowed their feet and beaks to aerate the soil, and organic matter from the chickens became immediate fertilizer.

The problem was the cold; chickens reduce their laying when it's cold. So they build a coop partially in the ground, which was enough to help keep enough heat in so they would lay eggs in winter. There is indeed a pecking order that includes space as a major variable. They now have two such coops and building the fence so they can still direct the chickens to the insect source(s) as needed.

Next Glenn took us to their winter storage built into the slope. Again, the ability to stabilize temperature at nature's preferred 50 degrees can help to store their food in winter without the expenditure of electricity. The land not only produces the food, but helps store it. Now, that's living off the land!

Fresh food is absolutely a priority for the Austin Family Farm. Glenn has worked hard to assure proper picking times for the FRUIT and networks with other farmers to assure product. He remembers a time getting up at 3 a.m. to harvest and pack the truck to make his rounds from Salida, Buena Vista, Colorado Springs, and Woodland Park, getting home at 1 a.m.

He fondly recalls a chef who sought his fresh squash blossoms. He would pick them at 3 a.m., and keep them cool with just enough room so they wouldn't bruise. He then delivered to the chef in Colorado Springs, who couldn't believe how perfect these blossoms were. "It's all about the timing of when the FRUIT is ready for the harvest."

Glenn has networked with a number of



To Glenn the bees are pollinators, "every blossom needs to be visited by about 70 bees," he says. Photo by Jeff Hansen.

farmers in the area who practice similar standards "beyond organic". "Some just want to farm and raise the food; they don't care to do the marketing part," explains Glenn as he discussed how the CSA works for the farmers as well as the consumers. The CSA program began about a dozen years ago. It was the first of such programs in the state of Colorado. Quality of the harvest becomes the key for everyone. "Harvest when it eats well."

"Food should be your medicine and medicine should be your food. That's what Hippocrates said. It holds true today," said Glenn as he reflects on the many changes in farming during his lifespan alone.

Then Glenn shared how his family was buying 25 gallons of non-organic milk per week. A neighbor decided to raise a dairy cow; Glenn wanted to help out so he promised he'd buy one organic gallon per week. Glenn began to notice one of the boys was sneezing and had copious

mucous. He started sharing his organic milk with this son and noticed the sneezing and mucous went away. As the trend continued, they found they were buying only about five to six gallons of organic milk instead of 25 gallons of non-organic. "It's simple; a person eats only 1/4 as much with nutrient dense food," said Glenn.

Glenn is a board member of the Farm Bureau, and a member of Acres USA (a sustainable beyond organic group). He also has a degree in agriculture.

Yet the seven generations that had gone before him continue to help him benefit not only from their legacy but from their notes.

Glenn mentioned he was just looking up in his father's notes something about animal husbandry as Acres USA is re-discovering the husbandry secrets of the 1800s.

When asked about the future of farming, Glenn took the longest pause of the day. He said he encourages his grandchildren to pursue, but has a few concerns. Glenn briefly mentioned the modernized "Pure Food Act". While there are many who are seeking truth in labeling as this law seems to have originally intended back in 1906, yet failed to be enforced. Some of the proposed changes are simply not viable, for example, there cannot be any animal feces on the property and water testing at least twice per week. Glenn is hopeful these well-intended law makers will learn a bit more about farming processes and consider some of the tried and true methods as discussed by Acres USA. Glenn is willing to share his expertise with anyone interested in learning.

We truly enjoyed our visit to the Austin Family

Farm. We learned more than expected. The core concepts of sustainability, cycles of nature, valuing each creature large and small, and knowing we all have a place on this green earth. We thank the Austin Family Farm for the tour, dedication to fresh foods, and sound farming fundamentals. We especially thank him for his willingness to share his knowledge base so freely. Please see their website to learn more: [www.austinfamilyfarm.com](http://www.austinfamilyfarm.com). He may suggest you visit; be ready to learn something and please say "hi" to Annie.

### Austin Farm's CSA Program pick-up cities

Thanks to the fine folks at Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park for encouraging us to explore the Austin Family Farm! The two parties have been working together so long, neither party is certain just how long this great relationship has been going on. We are grateful to the growers, as well as the local pick-up points, as both help to put nutrient rich food on our tables.

In addition to Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park, below are other pick-up cities for Austin Family Farm's CSA Program:

- Breckenridge
- Buena Vista
- Colorado Springs has 7
- Eagle has 2 locations
- Frisco
- Gunnison
- Monument
- Parker
- Salida
- Silverthorne
- Woodland Park



These "drapes" can be pulled over the trees when hail is imminent to protect the crops. Photo by Jeff Hansen.

### Discover the unique history of Fairplay

## A Brief History of Fairplay

by Linda Bjorklund

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## Walk For Education

by Denise Kelley

Lake George Charter School held their annual Walk for Education on Wednesday, May 7th. Since we are now in the new school down the road, the bus took the students over to the lake. Sixth & seventh grades started off the walk at 8:45, while the other classes were then staggered until all of the students were walking around Lake George Lake. This is a beautiful 3 mile walk that we all have enjoyed for years. There were three water and fruit stations along the way. The students and staff had a great time on the walk and almost \$1,400 was raised! This year, Mrs. Kultz's third grade class won the class pizza party for turning in the most sponsors!



Mrs. Lanz's second grade class



Mrs. Kultz's third grade class



The second grade class is walking between the Lake George Lake and the South Platte River towards Lake George.

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## Teddy Bears in Spring

by David Martinek

The cows are going crazy 'cause the grass is growing green, And the prairie dogs are sure that it's the best they've ever seen. The aspen trees are leafing and there's springtime in the air. So it's time to see your postman and buy a teddy bear.

My face is blushing red for having written mediocre poetry. But as Groucho Marx may have once snidely quipped to a boring guest, "even poor verse is preferable to the silence."

But what of the teddy bear reference? I spoke with Postmaster Monica DeLuca recently. She reminded me that the Divide Post Office is selling teddy bears again this year for the benefit of the Teller County Sheriff's office. Here's the scheme.

After purchasing one of these cute little furry bears and instead of taking it home, donate it to the Sheriff's department. The deputies give the bears to children whenever they have to go on a call for a domestic problem or reported child abuse. Teddy bears have been calming the fears of little boys and girls since their beginning. It is a worthwhile effort, so go buy one.

I remember sitting on my mother's lap when I was four years old, or maybe five, clutching a raggedy stuffed bear in my arms with the right ear chewed off as she told me the story of how the teddy bear came to be.

It was a German creation, she said, an imitation of the bears seen in the black forest of the hinterland. They were exported to the United States in early 1900 so that little boys like me would have a soft, cuddly toy to play with. I was appropriately impressed.

Her story was only partially true, but knowing no better my small pre-pubescent brain soaked it up like a high-priced paper towel. You know the kind. I can't tell you the name, but they are "bountiful."

Anyway, it wasn't until I was much older that I learned the true

story of the creation of the teddy bear. While one version did, in fact, originate in Germany, the Steiff bear, it is the American stuffed bear that became the iconic children's toy given by parents and adults down through the years as a sign of love, compassion and sympathy.

In America the teddy bear was named after Theodore Roosevelt - naturalist, outdoorsman, hunter, Rough Rider, reformer and the 26th President of the United States from 1901 to 1909. He was Vice President under William McKinley and assumed the office upon McKinley's death.

The tale that produced the teddy bear craze centers on a bear hunt that Roosevelt and some friends enjoyed down in Mississippi in 1902. Everyone in the group had bagged their prize except T. R. So his friends and their dogs cornered a black bear and tied it to a tree, exhorting Roosevelt to shoot it. He refused but ordered that the bear be killed anyway to put it out of its misery.

Later that year, Clifford Berryman of the "Washington Post" drew a political cartoon of the incident, perhaps symbolizing Roosevelt's disgust over the spoiling of our nation's natural resources. In a later drawing Berryman showed the little black bear as smaller and cuter. A toy-maker named Morris Michtom saw the cartoon and fashioned a stuff bear which he put in his store window. He called it the "teddy bear," after Roosevelt, a nickname that T. R. loathed to be called. Roosevelt gave his permission to use the name, however, and even accepted one as a commemorative gift. The toy became an instant success prompting Michtom to found the Ideal Novelty and Toy Company and become rich.

About the same time, the Steiff firm in Germany exhibited a stuff bear toy, designed by Richard Steiff, at the Leipzig Toy Fair in 1903. The bear was seen by an American buyer who ordered 3000 be



Cartoon by Clifford Berryman, Washington Post, November, 1902. Internet file.



Example of the two bears being sold by the Divide Post Office. The brown bear sells for \$11.99 and the Winnie the Pooh bear sells for \$14.99. Photo by David Martinek

shipped to New York. Although Steiff company records show that the bears were shipped, there is no record of their arrival in the U.S. Some suspect a shipwreck, but that's another story. My mother knew of them, though.

By 1906 the "teddy" bear craze was in full swing and everyone was making them. In addition to being the most popular children's toy at the time, women carried "teddies" around for comfort and even Roosevelt displayed one during his campaign for re-election. In WWII at least one Royal Air Force fighter crew used one as a mascot.

It is no wonder then that Teller County Sheriff's deputies see the popular bears sold by the Divide Post Office as a warm and comforting way to soothe the fears of a frightened child exposed to a family disturbance.

#### Will you help?

The prices for the bears are reasonable and there are two varieties to choose from (\$11.99 for the brown bear and \$14.99 for the Winnie the Pooh bear). Your gift may help some child in Teller County to be less frightened and afraid.

"There are sometimes negative things happening in our community, but this is a positive effort that we fully support," said Postmaster DeLuca.

It's time to see your postman and buy a teddy bear.

## Railroad workers die

by Maurice Wells

photos by Maurice Wells

On Saturday, May 24 at the Lake George Community Park, a memorial monument was dedicated to railroad workers who died in or about Elevenmile Canyon during the 1800s. Local historian, Steve Plutt, was instrumental in arranging for the memorial. At the dedication, Plutt spoke about the Midland Railroad and the workers involved in its construction and operation.

In the 1800s, construction on the railroad was underway in the canyon. Workers consisted of local residents and several immigrants of Italian descent. Unfortunately, these immigrant workers were not accepted and conflicts arose. Such a situation occurred in September of 1886 when three men, James Brady, John Peoples and Jack Williams, killed two Italian workers, Antonio Gancola and Casimo Granitti, by shooting into their tent while they were sleeping. Peoples was arrested at the site and the records are unclear

as to the fate of Jack Williams. James Brady was pursued by a posse and was involved in a shoot-out from which he escaped. There seems to be no further information about James Brady.

In future years more lives were lost. In December of 1886, Joseph Machintie was killed by an explosion of blasting powder he was heating near an open fire. Two men known only by their last names, Slattery and O'Brien, were killed in a wreck in the canyon. In August of 1894, engineer John Blocker was killed by a landslide. Finally, in September of 1914, fireman F. L. Packard died in a wreck due to a derailment.

The Midland Railroad continued operations until 1918 when it ceased to function. Track- age west of Divide was dismantled in 1921. Thanks to people like Steve Plutt who devote their time and energy to open forgotten pages of the history of our region.



Midland Railroad memorial monument.



Steve Plutt dedicates memorial.

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## Victor holds 2nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show

This year's annual Gem & Mineral Show is sponsored by the Southern Teller County Focus Group (STCFG) in Victor, and will be held June 21-22, in historic Victor. It is open and free to the public.

The show will include vendors from across the state selling Colorado dug minerals, gems, hand-crafted jewelry, mining antiques, rough slabs, specimens, cabochons, hand-crafted furniture with mineral inlays, Cripple Creek & Victor Mining District gold ore specimens, as well as gold and gem panning for the kids at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. One vendor will have a geode breaking station for kids; cracking open crystal-filled rocks is great fun for all ages.

Vendors will set up and be ready for sales by 9 a.m. June 21. Show hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 21 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on June 22. The vendors will be set up on North Third Street in lots between the Post Office Building and the Victor Elks Lodge. The Elks Lodge will be open and members will be grilling burgers on the porch as a fundraiser.

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

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

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

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

Fun was had at the 2013 Gem & Mineral show

## Caution Thrown Away

by Zach Sepulveda

*Note: the poet is experimenting with Tanka, a classical Japanese poetic form that consists of 5 lines generally following the pattern on these numbers of syllables: 5-7-5-7-7. Zach has expanded the traditional Tanka to 7 stanzas.*

*The promise of life*

*In this oozing,*

*black morass*

*Is naught but a lie*

*A sickly sweet seduction*

*That I can never escape*

*The primeval cold*

*Eating at my weary bones*

*Never goes away*

*That deadly warm temptation*

*It beckons ever stronger*

*A victim-less crime*

*To eat what's already dead*

*Lying at my feet*

*Just a little jump across*

*Of a slow, fiery demise?*

*Caution thrown away*

*The fateful leap is taken*

*At first, there is warmth*

*And mountains of food to eat*

*Just like I had wished*

*But my footing slips*

*It's all too soon, all at once*

*All I had is gone*

*Never to be seen again*

*By the bright eyes of my kin*

*Eons pass me by*

*As my charred remains are raised*

*Slowly to the sun I shall be cherished by man*

*And my spirit lives in him*

*This vintage postcard shows a Smilodon sneaking up on a prey animal that is stuck in the tars of the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, CA. This postcard is part of the Pebble Pup postcard collection. There is no copyright.*

### About the author

Zachary Sepulveda recently moved to the Pikes Peak region from San Diego, CA. He became interested in paleontology by visiting the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles as often as he could. He is a junior member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and is part of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and Earth Science Scholars Program. Zach is 16 years old and is in 11th grade at Palmer Ridge High School in Monument, Colorado.

## Goldfields for a Young Man's Pick

by Gavin Noller

*I wonder where I'll mine? –*

*Maybe wander 'round a bit—*

*'till I find the perfect spot . . .*

*and that's where I'll sink my pick.*

### About the author

Gavin Noller is a 13-year-old middle school student in 7th grade. His favorite subject in school is science, and he loves finding rocks and fossils in his free time. Gavin also has a strong interest in archaeology. He is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and has worked on day-long outreach projects at the Colorado City Founder's Day celebration, the Cool Science Festival at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and Family Geology Day at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry.

## Earth Science Haiku Poems

by Luke Nielsen

*The clumps of crystal*

*That are in a pegmatite*

*Waiting to be found*

*Gold in the river*

*So you may want to catch it*

*Patience always pays*

### About the author

Luke Nielsen is nine years old and lives in Colorado Springs with his family of six. He is in 3rd grade at The Classical Academy where his favorite subject is science. Luke enjoys rock hounding and his favorite mineral is amazonite. He also enjoys reading and creating new inventions.



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## Guided nature hikes

by Susanna Brauer

Join Mountain Area Land Trust (MALT) on FREE guided hikes this summer.

- Pennsylvania Mountain Natural Area, our most recent purchase, is near Alma. See ancient bristlecone pines, stunning wildflowers, alpine researchers in the field and more!

Hikes will take place on:  
Friday, June 20th (in honor of Colorado Land Conservation Week)  
Saturday, June 28th  
Saturday, July 12th

- Beaver Brook Watershed, near Evergreen, is beloved US Forest Service, Clear Creek County Open Space and MALT conserved land with outstanding scenic vistas and wildlife habitat. Join us on the dates listed

below to learn about the unique history and natural resources on this beautiful property. Also learn about MALT's roll in the community and land conservation.

Hikes will take place on:  
Saturday, June 7th  
Friday, June 13th  
Friday, June 27th

- "Monitoring 101" will take place on property owned by Jefferson County Open Space and held in a Conservation Easement by MALT on Wednesday, June 18. Learn how MALT partners with Jefferson County Open Space to care for conserved lands. Enjoy spectacular views of Mount Evans and Upper Bear Creek.

Please call 303-679-0950 to reserve your space.  
Hikes are from 10-11:30 am. Visit [www.savetheland.org/hiking-with-malt](http://www.savetheland.org/hiking-with-malt) for the most current schedule.

Do you want to hike on a different date or want a private group outing? We are available to do hikes by request!

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# A homeschool field trip to the top of the world

by Elisabeth Newton  
photos by Elisabeth Newton

On a Thursday, May 1st, the Teller and Park County homeschool group took the Cog Railway route up Pikes Peak. The homeschool group consisted of 123 people, and occupied most of the double train. It was a gorgeous, clear day in Manitou and the families met early at the depot to get their tickets, greet everyone and browse the gift shop.

Although everyone in the group lives in either the Teller/Park County area or Colorado Springs, many had not previously ridden the Cog train, or made it to the summit by it. It was a first-time experience for many! During the ride up they learned some cool new things about Pikes Peak from the conductor, such as what kind of wildlife lives on the mountain and stories from famous people in history who have climbed or ridden up the mountain. The train made it to the summit of Pikes Peak, which was 7 degrees in temperature. The group was able to check out the scenery, the gift shop, and try some world-famous high-altitude doughnuts.

The Homeschool group got back to Manitou Springs safely, and they had to take off their coats in returning to the spring weather. Many of the families met at the Soda Springs Park in Manitou to play before heading back home. All in all, it was a successful trip full of fun, sightseeing, and learning.



Emma De Herrera smiling as the group arrives at the summit.



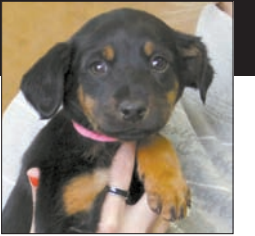
Christian Lemus and Joshua Newton exploring the summit gift shop.

## Adopt Me Puppies and Kittens!

By Lisa Moore of TCRAS

Spring has sprung and TCRAS is full of four legged babies. TCRAS has four puppies available for adoption now! Jax and Sarge are both four month old Lab/Rottweiler mixes. Birdsong and Sundray are two month old Mini Australian Shepherd mixes. All animals are spayed or neutered prior to adoption, and they are current with vaccines and are micro-chipped. Your adoption fee also includes a free vet visit, free microchip registration for a year and a 45 day gift of insurance. TCRAS will also provide food and toys for your new furr-ever friend.

Soon to come: Lab mix puppies and lots of kittens. Please keep an eye on our website to see when they become available for adoption. Call TCRAS, the no-kill shelter in Divide, at 719-686-7707 for more information or checkout our website to see all the available animals! [www.tcrascaloradocolorado.com](http://www.tcrascaloradocolorado.com)



Birdsong



Sundray

# Children's Reading Day with Colorado children's authors

Saturday, June 14th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to meet five children's authors and hear them read throughout the day. This children's reading day is one where children can learn to LOVE reading by interacting with the authors, participating in the story and seeing books literally come alive!

Meet Sally Burr, the Jordan family, Vanessa Kilik, Joan Musick and Gail Ross. All of these authors will thrill children with their stories! The stories behind WHY they write for children are interesting too. Authors Sally Burr and Gail Ross write books for their grandchildren to interest them in local animals and show their character, virtue and realistic behavior in their Black Forest Friends series. Author Vanessa Kilik realized that "childhood isn't silly enough anymore" so she decided to write some fun in her book My Snow Globe Book.

The Jordan family in their book Quest for Bunny Island joined family talents together to tell how some animals are BORN with the gift

of talking like people. They based their book on flights of imagination with stuffed animals dating back to when the Jordan boys were children. They will also be accompanied by the family rabbit during the event.

Author Joan Musick, a seamstress from the age of 12, started quilting in 1980. Always a lover of writing, it wasn't until a friend told an unusually funny story about her disappearing flowers that Joan wrote the story down and sewed the story into a quilt. In her Reverse Book series for children, she will read two books in one, because there are always two sides to every story.

During this fun day children will participate in the story telling, meet a live rabbit, find out what really goes on in a snow globe, learn what magically happens when you see both sides of a story and meet the authors who make it all happen.

Old Colorado City Historical Society is located at 1 South 24th Street, Colorado Springs. Please call 719-636-1225 for more information.

## Habitat needs your help!

by Jamie Caperton

Habitat for Humanity of Teller County is working on to completion by the end of June so the families that will call them home can move in to them. But mother nature has not been kind to us with snow, rain and hail our construction schedule has taken a beating.

We need as many volunteers with any and all skills (or no skill at all; we will train you) to give

us any time you have available on our job site at 850 Forest Edge here in Woodland Park. Our work days are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

You can register at [www.tellerhabitat.org/volunteer](http://www.tellerhabitat.org/volunteer) or just show up at the job site and we will get you signed up! Bring a friend, social group or a whole church if you are so inclined...we can sure use the help! Thanks and hope to see you soon.

## Florissant Fossil Beds hosts National Trails Day and Teen Hiking Contest

The National Park Service, the Coalition of the Upper South Platte, and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will be sponsoring a volunteer, trail maintenance workday on Saturday June 7th, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in honor of National Trails Day.

Florissant Fossil Beds trails need your help! Show your love for the park, its 14 miles of trails, and experience a beautiful and unique landscape. Come join National Park Service staff, volunteers and natural resource conservation professionals to perform some much needed trail work.

The project will be "hands on" with varying degrees of difficulty and distance from the Visitor Center. All skill levels are welcome and an appropriate task will be assigned to you. Children over 10 years old can participate with a parent or guardian. Youth groups that are interested in participating need to contact Ranger Jeff Wolin@ 719-748-3253 ext. 202.

Volunteers will meet outside of the Florissant Fossil Beds Visitor Center at the volunteer sign up table at 9 a.m. All volunteers will be required to fill in an official sign up sheet, and attend an orientation/safety briefing before receiving assignments. Work groups will be leaving the Visitor Center area at 9:40 a.m. Hardhats will be provided and some gloves and safety glasses are available. A light lunch will be provided in the field by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds. Extra water will also be provided.

Please bring: work gloves, sunglasses,

sunscreen, water containers, any applicable medicines (including epi-pens, insulin and inhalers), snacks and a sack lunch for those with dietary restrictions.

Please wear: sturdy work boots/shoes with ankle support, long pants, (a long sleeve shirt is recommended). Please leave pets at home.

The National Trails Day event is also the kick-off for a teen hiking contest to be held throughout the summer. The contest, called, "Fourteen4Teens" challenges local area teens (13 - 19yrs) to hike all 14 miles of trails at Florissant Fossil Beds between June 7 and September 28th. All participants will receive a prize and be eligible for a grand prize given out at the September 28 closing ceremony on National Public Lands Day also held at Florissant Fossil Beds. Interested teens can pick up their hiking contest log sheet at the visitor center front desk.

The Fourteen4Teens hiking contest is part of a grant that was awarded to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, the Coalition of the Upper South Platte, and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds. The Active Trails grant for \$24,000 will be used to help connect area teenagers with the Monument's trail system through working and hiking. Three area teenagers will be employed through the grant to work on a trail crew.

RSVP by contacting: Jeff Wolin, Florissant Fossil Beds N.M. 719-748-3253 ext.202. Lisa Patton, Volunteer Coordinator CUSP [www.upsouthplatte.org/Volunteer/](http://www.upsouthplatte.org/Volunteer/). John Schwabe, Project Coordinator "Friends" 719-689-3174

## Rock on!

Springtime in the Rockies is always unpredictable. Almost a foot of snow forced the Pikes Peak Historical Society to cancel Richard Fretter's talk in May. It has now been rescheduled for Sunday, June 8.

"Rock" star, Richard Fretter, is a hero in the Pikes Peak region. He has been featured on the popular TV series "Prospectors," and is arguably one the most successful miners in the area. In 2008, he first donated an extremely large smoky quartz crystal (439 lbs and 4 feet tall) to the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, aided by a special grant from the Cripple and Victor Gold Mining Company. In 2013, he donated a second very large smoky quartz crystal (345 lbs and 4 feet 3 inches tall). Experts believe that these are the largest smoky quartz crystals ever discovered in North America.

Both crystals are now in the permanent collection of the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum, putting it on the national map of geologic treasures. Fretter intended the "Brother" crystals to be a memorial to his younger

brother, Vincent "Scruffy," and to remain in the mountains where they were found.

Guests are invited to the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum following Fretter's talk, where the "Brother" crystals will be dedicated. There will also be a Ribbon Cutting by the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce for the new Museum parking lot, made possible by grants from CDOT, Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mine, Teller County Commissioners, Park State Bank, Teller County Public Works Dept., and other funding partners.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society invites you to learn more of this Rock Star's fascinating life story when they host Rich Fretter on Sunday, June 8, for their monthly Chautauqua (free program), at 2:00 pm at the Florissant Library. The Library is located adjacent to the Florissant Community Park on 334 Circle Drive in Florissant. Fretter's program is presented as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Admission is free, and refreshments are served. Seating is limited. For more information, call 719-748-3562.

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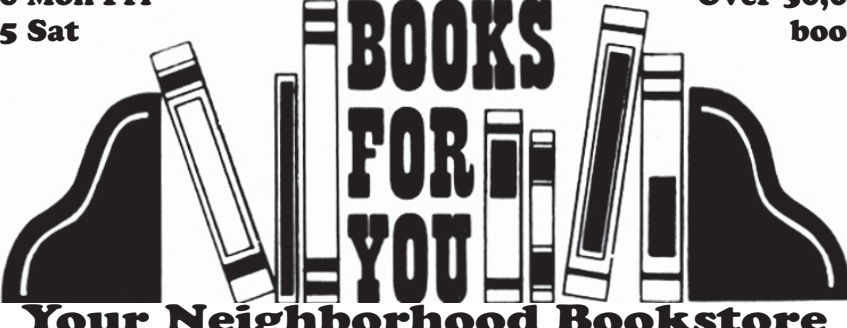
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- Shining Mountain Golf Club
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- Ralf's Breakroom
- Jeff Proper (Friend of Florissant Fossil Beds)
- Other anonymous friends of the Pantry

**Events in June and July:** We will be serving food for the Ute Pass Saddle Club Gymkhanas every other Sunday all summer starting Sunday June 8th as a fundraiser for the Pantry.

Also, we will have a food booth at the Colorado Pro Rodeo in Cripple Creek June 13th, 14th, and 15th; and we will have a booth at the 4th of July in the Park.

# Always seek the truth, a letter to my grandson

by David Martinek

My dear grandson, so you're turning 16. Congratulations! It's one of those milestones in your life that you'll always remember. I remember when I turned 16. It took me two tries to pass my driver's test and get my license, but by the summer of 1961, I was driving dad's old 1950s Ford pickup truck, and I felt like the gates had finally been opened and the leashes removed. I felt so free. I hope you will get to experience that sense of freedom, as well. It is a wonderful sensation, but along with it comes a lot of new responsibility. I also had a girl friend or two by that time - same as you.

The next couple of years are going to be important ones for you - high school, graduation, taking on more responsibility, thinking about college - testing your wings. Many of your experiences will be good ones; some not so good. Some of the good ones will make you think they are the most wonderful things to ever happen to you; *they won't be*. Some of the bad may leave you feeling that your world is coming to an end; *I assure you it won't*. Neither of those extremes will happen, but you'll feel that way emotionally in both cases because you will not have experienced that particular event, or emotion, joy or disappointment much before. With all the hormone's flooding through your body at this stage in your life, you're likely to have an extreme reaction to most everything. The first time for anything may be the most dramatic, but it is rarely the best time. *The best* is yet to come.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes; you'll make plenty of them. We all do. There's an old joke that we should always try to make different mistakes, though. I made some whoppers growing up and so will you. The important thing is to learn from them and take personal responsibility for them. Stand up; own up to them; don't blame others. I firmly believe that 99percent of all the bad things that happen to us in life cannot be blamed on anyone other than ourselves. On the other hand, I think most of the good things that happen are the result of someone else's benevolence, friendship or love for us.

You will be going through some fairly wide mood swings, and rebellion is in your nature. Try to control that as much as you can. Don't think that what you do or think now is the epitome of your life forever. It isn't. One day

you're on top of the world, and the next day it's on top of you. When you get to feeling depressed, or feel that mom and dad don't understand you, or your girlfriend dumps you for another guy, or you're being pressured to do something by "the group" that you know is not right, or you don't know what to do with yourself - just remember that you're in good company. Every other teenager in the world has probably felt the same way. If you find yourself asking: "how can I shake this feeling, why doesn't anyone understand me, what can I do and where can I go?" - here's my answer: "Do rather than think. Go home. Mow the lawn. Wash the dishes. Learn to cook. Learn to work with your hands. Build something. Get a job. Volunteer. Visit the sick. Join a club. Read a book. Get on the computer and instead of playing games write down how you're feeling - like a diary. Stop whining. No one owes you anything. You are not entitled to anything. No one is to blame for your life, your thoughts or your actions except you. The world doesn't owe you a living. Rather you owe the world something. You owe it your time, your energies and your talents to make the world less anxious for war, a freer and safer place to live and work, and to help your fellow man be healthier and less lonely. It's up to you to make your own way in a free country. In other words, be willing to grow up and develop a backbone, not a wishbone. Behave like a responsible person. You are important and the world needs you!"

I have always thought that if a person showed respect for others and themselves, honored the changes that time brings and had love in their heart, they could weather just about anything life throws at them. With that in mind, here are three guideposts (concepts) to remember and follow as you mature into a young adult man.

The first is RESPECT. Respect your mother and father. It may seem that they are against you sometimes, but really they are just trying to guide you through your confused teenage life (confused in comparison to theirs). They have lived longer than you, gone through what you're going through and know what you're made of. They believe in you, although they may not always think as you do. That doesn't mean you have to agree with everything they say or think, especially when you think you're right. But it does mean that you respect them enough to abide by their wishes until you're able to make all of your own decisions. You will probably learn things they don't know or look at events in the world a little differently than they do, because you're of a different generation. But when it comes to living the everyday life and dealing with the mundane chores and responsibilities of adulthood, they are the experts compared to your short years on this earth. They feed and clothe you and give you a place to sleep. They love you unconditionally. That alone should earn you respect a hundred times over.

Respect others, as well, and treat them as you want to be treated (the Golden Rule is real). You don't have to like someone to respect them. Respect women. Watch out for those careless spoken words; they're hard to take back. Don't be abusive. Respect authority, but always be willing to question it. Accepting direction doesn't mean that you blindly follow. It's okay to ask "why." In the same vein, respect those you may lead someday. The old adage that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" is true, so always be mindful of the consequences of your actions and your words whenever you find yourself in a position of authority and responsibility.

Finally, *respect yourself*. Think for yourself; be your own man. Create your own discipline, integrity and moral compass. Control your emotions. It's a great feeling to be popular, but you know right from wrong. Often the more courageous thing to do is to step aside from "the group" sometimes and just say "no." Don't do or say things that you wouldn't find pleasing in others. Don't pollute your body with substances that aren't good for you. There

are many, many more wonderful and positive sensations to enjoy in life than they create, and with fewer side effects. Take care of yourself and your health.

The second guidepost is TIME. Time is the great revealer, the great healer and the great leveler among men. All things mellow with time. Your enemy today could be your best friend in a few years. The girl you think is the love of your life now more than likely will just be an "old girlfriend" later in your life. Those pressures and emotional tragedies that come your way will fade in severity and only appear as hard lessons in due time. The harder the lesson, the longer you will remember it. The things you enjoy now and the accomplishments you achieve are setting the stage for even greater enjoyments and accomplishments in the future, and they are teaching you how to appreciate them. The bad things you face now will make you stronger and more able to face adversity in the future. Be patient. What goes around comes around again. I know it's a cliché, but *you do have* your whole life ahead of you. So make every second count; and remember, time *does* heal all wounds. Let it.

The last and perhaps most important guidepost is LOVE. If you have love in your heart, it crowds out bad attitudes and hate. Your mom and dad love you. I am as certain of that as I am that whiskers grow on my face. They may not like your behavior from time to time, or you there's, but there is absolutely nothing you can do to stop them from loving you. It's not only their job as parents, it's in their nature. They gave life to you; they want the best for you. You should love them with the *same* intensity. If you do, your behavior will follow.

As your grandfather, I love you, too, equally as strong. It's not just because I don't have to put up with you day after day. No, the greater reason is that I cannot change the blood in my veins; the same blood that runs through your dad and you. I pray for you constantly in my heart that you will be safe and find your way, just like I do for your dad. I will pray for you even after I'm gone and the world has forgotten me. Those are the same words and promise my grandfather told me shortly before he died. I believed him. Believe me.

Never discount the volume of love you have at your disposal for your family, and always be willing, as a result, to turn that love around and share it with your friends and with whomever you chose as a mate, if that's your choice, and your future children. We are family; we love each other. It is our family that teaches us to love others.

What I have written may not make a lot of sense to you right now, or maybe it embarrasses you that your grandfather would send you such a letter. If so, fine. Put it away for a time and read it again when you are older. But remember this: the world goes around and things change - often for the good and sometimes for the bad. Sometimes "good" and "bad" are just *opinions*. When you begin to recognize fact from opinion, you'll be wiser. Remember also that everything I've written could apply to some adults, as well - those who haven't grown up and haven't accepted responsibility for themselves or their actions. Don't be one of them. Always seek the truth.

Here's one final truth: *I will love you, forever!*

That's what Grandpa's do.



# Thymekeeper: Eat those dandy greens!

by Mari Marques

Wait! Don't spray that beautiful yellow flower! Dandelion is a most awesome nutritious food as well as an excellent herbal remedy.

Dandelion greens are one of the most nutritious leafy greens you can eat. They are abundantly available in Teller County and they are free! One cup of fresh raw dandelion greens contain more of the recommended daily allowance (RDA) of Vitamin A, Vitamin K, Calcium and Iron than Broccoli. Low in calories, dandelion greens are rich in minerals. Besides calcium and iron, they are a good source of copper, manganese, phosphorus, potassium and magnesium. They have more protein per serving than spinach. The greens themselves are 14% protein and contain all essential amino acids so it's a complete protein. One cup contains 1.5 grams of protein.

They are a multi-vitamin. Besides vitamin A (as beta-carotene (112% RDA) and vitamin C (32% RDA), dandelion greens are also good sources of B6 (7% RDA), vitamin E (9% RDA) and are especially abundant in vitamin K (535% RDA).

See more here: <http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/vegetables-and-vegetable-products/2441/2>

The young tender leaves taken before the plant flowers are a nutritional powerhouse and a number one choice for adding to green smoothies. The dandelion crown which sits atop the dandelion's taproot includes multiple new flower buds and the earliest, and most tender leaves. They are succulent, buttery soft and bittersweet morsels. Dandelion crowns are a treat that everyone can enjoy.

When the leaves are older they have a stronger somewhat bitter taste aiding in proper digestion. If you don't have access to dandelion leaves near you, check with Mountain Naturals in Woodland Park or come and see me. The dandelion reigns in my yard and greenhouse throughout the spring and summer months.

All parts of the dandelion plant are edible as well as beneficial with no known toxicity. The ground root can be lightly roasted in a frying pan or browned in the oven on a cookie sheet to make caffeine-free dandelion coffee. The flowers can be coated and lightly sautéed in olive oil.

The stems, although bitter and slightly tough contain digestive enzymes and can be chewed to stimulate the flow of digestive juices making nutrients easier to assimilate.

Like its cousin the Sunflower, Dandelion seeds, although very small are also edible and highly nutritious.

## Interesting Dandelion Fact

If you attempt to dig a dandelion root and it breaks off in the ground, it may take a season to come back but another dandelion will emerge with two tops on it. Depending on how



many times the root has been broken off you can end up with a Medusa dandelion with two, three, even four heads on one root much to the dismay of the perfect lawn person and the delight of the Herbalist!

## Tip:

Pouring warmed olive oil and garlic over a salad of dandelion greens will help to bring out the mineral content.

Mari Marques is a Certified Herbalist and owner of *The Thymekeeper*. For questions or more information contact: Mari at [mugsy-pad@aol.com](mailto:mugsy-pad@aol.com) or 719-439-7303. Mari is available for private consultation or to meet with you and see what's blooming on your property in June, July and August.

## Dandelion Pumpkin Seed Pesto

- Makes about 1 cup
- 3/4 cup unsalted hulled (green) pumpkin seeds
- 3 garlic gloves, minced
- 1/4 cup freshly grated parmesan
- 1 bunch dandelion greens (about 2 cups, loosely packed)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- Black pepper, to taste

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Pour the pumpkin seeds onto a shallow-rimmed baking sheet and roast until just fragrant, about 5 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

Pulse the garlic and pumpkin seeds together in the bowl of a food processor until very finely chopped.

Add parmesan cheese, dandelion greens, and lemon juice and process continuously until combined. Stop the processor every now and again to scrape down the sides of the bowl. The pesto will be very thick and difficult to process after a while -- that's ok.

With the blade running, slowly pour in the olive oil and process until the pesto is smooth. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Recipe from the popular cook book titled "Cook Eat Grow" by Willi Galloway.

# Guffey Heritage Day and Chicken Rodeo

by Flip Boettcher

photo by Flip Boettcher

It was two years ago that Guffey resident Bill Isoux discontinued his Chicken Fly, an event held annually for over 25 years. Early this year several members of the community came together to plan, organize, and hold the First Annual Guffey Heritage Day and Chicken Rodeo, which will be held on Friday, July 4th from 10am - 4pm.

This is a community event, according to event volunteer Sonia Sullivan in an email, will consist of three areas: the craftsman village, the art fair, and mining exhibits. Plans are for the craftsman village to have a chicken wing contest, chicken rodeo, chicken bingo, old time games, and more.

The art fair will be an opportunity for visitors to peruse, perhaps purchase, art and jewelry from local artists. The mining exhibits will display old mining tools used in this area by the miners and a chance to learn about the history of the area.

The community group needs local artists to display their crafts at the free space. The committee also needs residents to enter their



Guffey Heritage Days and Chicken Rodeo event coordinator Dana Peters at the Bull Moose Restaurant and Bar in Guffey.

award winning chicken wing recipes in the Chicken Wing Cook-Off.

According to Sullivan, all proceeds will go to the Guffey Community Charter School, and will be funded 100 percent by donations from folks in the community.

The committee is in need of sponsors. Top tier sponsors will receive various levels of advertising at the event and on the event t-shirt.

Please call event coordinators Dana Peters at 517-420-8596 or Mary Curtis at 719-689-4199 to offer your help or for more information.

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## Pain happens, suffering is optional

by Bill Koppari, D.C.

In order to understand the meaning of the title Above, it is first necessary to define the words pain and suffering, as well as to ask if either or both of them may ultimately serve a purpose in helping us heal (i.e., move toward wholeness). Pain is defined most often as physical discomfort of some kind. Suffering is defined as the process of EXPERIENCING physical pain, and the emotional meaning and attachments we give to that experience.

If you think about these words and their meanings as presented here, you will see that physical pain is something that happens to us, whereas suffering is in reality a choice we make in how to respond to that pain. I realize the idea that we actually CHOOSE to suffer will not sit well with some people, but everyone reading this article can think of examples of how experiencing pain may have caused one person or group of people to suffer terribly, while others enduring nearly identical circumstances turned the pain into incredible growth experiences for themselves and for others.

I am reminded of the story about twin brothers who grew up in the ghettos of Detroit, Michigan. Their father was a drug addict, a thief, he was never around for them, he was constantly in and out of jail and he caused terrible stress and physical pain in their household while they were young. These boys were interviewed as adults on a television news show. One brother was in jail and had turned out just like his father while the other had become a world-famous heart surgeon. They were both asked the following question separately, "Why do you believe you turned out the way you did?" Amazingly, they both answered the same exact way. They said, "With a father like I had, how else could I have turned out?"

You see, one brother used the pain he experienced to propel himself into better circumstances. He chose to remember the PAIN, but he gave up the suffering and created the life he wanted. The other chose to continue suffering and use the PAIN simply as an excuse to not achieve

anything in his life.

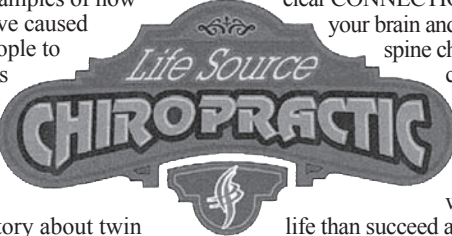
It is never fun to go through pain. In fact, it has been called the gift nobody wants. But, I believe that pain can in fact be the greatest gift we can receive, if we CHOOSE to use it for our growth. What is your pain trying to tell you? Do you need to change some aspect of your lifestyle? Do you need to add something to your healthcare regiment? Do you need to make a decision in some area of your life you have been putting off or take an action you have been avoiding? One of the most important things you can do is to make sure you maintain a clear CONNECTION in the nerves between your brain and your body by having your spine checked regularly by your chiropractor.

One of my favorite quotes is from "A Course in Miracles" and says, "Your soul would rather fail at its own life than succeed at someone else's." USE YOUR PAIN! Ask yourself what your soul is trying to tell you. LISTEN carefully and take whatever steps are needed to use as many experiences as possible for growth. Then, help others to do the same, and you will find the truth – pain happens, suffering is optional!

*I am Dr. Bill Koppari, and I am a principled chiropractor here in Woodland Park. I am an expert when it comes to helping someone with back pain, neck pain or headaches. I absolutely help people with those problems all the time but I am applying for the position as your Wellness Doctor.*

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*Life Source Chiropractic is located at 212 South Chestnut in Woodland Park. Please visit our website [www.drkoppari.com](http://www.drkoppari.com) or call (719) 686-5599 for more information. Share this with a friend; bring this in for a free consultation.*



## UPHS needs YOU!

Summertime is busy time at Ute Pass Historical Society, and that means we need your help on June 14, July 12, August 9 and September 13. Docents are needed for our Second Saturday Tours. History Park and the Museum Center are open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and volunteers are needed to answer questions and provide information regarding our organization, the Ute Pass area, and the buildings that make up History Park.

A guide is also needed to lead the Historic Walking Tour of Woodland Park, leaving History Park at 10:30 a.m., returning around noon. Training will be provided.

Friday, July 4th, Volunteers are needed to be pioneer re-enactors, tour guides and parking directors for our Third annual Cemetery Tour. The Tour times are 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.; volunteers need to report at 12:30 p.m. Come join us for a fun afternoon! Training will be provided.

These events offer cool volunteer opportunities in the warm summer sun for you and your family, yes, even older kids (age 12+) and visiting relatives. What could be more rewarding than sharing quality time with your family and the UPHS family of volunteers, all while being of service to UPHS and the community?

To volunteer, or for more information, please call the UPHS office at 719.686.7512 or e-mail us at [uphs@peakinter.net](mailto:uphs@peakinter.net).

As always, thanks for your ongoing support of UPHS. Our volunteers make history!

## Everyone loves a parade

Entries are now being accepted for the Victor Gold Rush Days Parade 2014. Advertise your business or organization in style while we celebrate the City of Mines' 120th birthday with three days of fun and activities.

The parade will begin at noon on Sunday, July 20, 2014. Entries are free and the theme is Victor's 120th birthday, with a comic twist. The Ugly Truck Competition is once again a part of the parade, so get creative and get crazy. For more information and entry forms, contact Becky Parham, 719-494-9789, [bparham@victorco.us](mailto:bparham@victorco.us), or check out the website, [victorcolorado.com/goldrushdays.htm](http://victorcolorado.com/goldrushdays.htm). Deadline for registration is July 10. Come out and join the celebration!

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## Day away destination: Paonia

by Kathy Hansen

One of our traveling questions when visiting someplace new is, "Will there be a reason to come back?" The answer for Paonia is emphatically, "Yes!"

We scoped out various routes on the map, much dependent on whether certain mountain passes would be open yet. We decided to head out to Hwy 50, go over Monarch Pass, through Gunnison then break north through the north rim of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

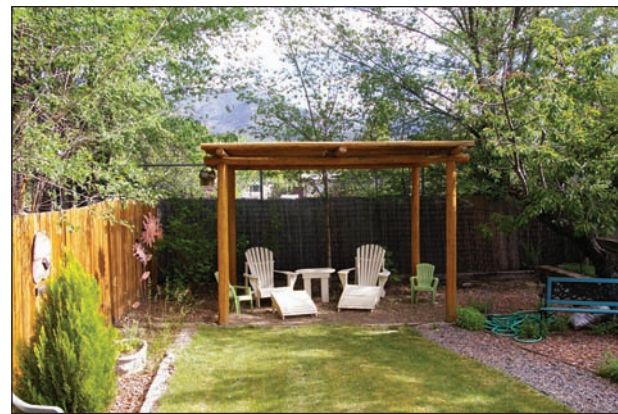
If you have never been, we strongly recommend it. The views are absolutely breathtaking! We had been through the south rim on a trip a while back and decided if we ever passed this way again, it would be worth checking out the north rim. We were not disappointed.

This canyon is so vast; carved by the Gunnison River, water drops an average of 96 feet per mile, and at its steepest, 480 feet in one two-mile stretch. Yet it is only about 9 miles wide. There are many overlook areas, built by those brave souls willing to work via harness; we extend our sincerest "thank you!" to them as I hold on for dear life. It's a long way down! We found some of the first wild flowers of the year in the Black Canyon.

Heading up toward Paonia was beautiful. We drove through Crawford and Hotchkiss. We were quite surprised to see how much agriculture was alive and well. Aside from bountiful orchards, many families had chicken coops, sheep grazing, or llamas. Homes were well cared for; most had a greenhouse or a garden, maybe both. It sure had a wholesome feel to it.

### Rocky Mountain Inn

Jeff did well to choose the Rocky Mountain Inn as our home away from home. Darla Demerell, the inn's owner for the past eight years or so has been making sure guests are satisfied. There are choices to fit every group and every budget, from single rooms, to double bedroom



A very relaxing stay was had at the Rocky Mountain Inn.

suites, or the completely separated suite we enjoyed. All are spacious and the kitchenettes come with refrigerator, microwave, and dishes. Each space is uniquely designed for a pleasant stay.

The courtyard out back was very enjoyable both evenings we stayed. It was nice to unwind and remember the day with the soft gurgle of the fountain in front of us, as the rushing of the river behind giving contrast. The first night, we could hear someone practicing their guitar from one direction, while the other direction offered piano music. Morning in the courtyard was also a very pleasant environment to read a few words of the book in progress while the birds woke and plants opened to greet the sun. Such a pleasant stay!

The archway over the entrance was created by sculptor, Jim Agius, and it really lends a rustic welcome. Darla's late friend, Damian Durstanti helped remodel the rooms with artistic flare and carved the totem pole near the office entry. Darla enjoyed partnering with him; no matter what she suggested or envisioned, Damian could add just the right touch to make it work. She misses him and the fun they had making each room take on its own persona.

The Rocky Mountain Inn is open year round. They offer loaner-bicycles for those who wish to tour the town on two wheels. Please contact them (970) 527-3070 or visit the website: [www.rockymountaininn.net](http://www.rockymountaininn.net)

### High Country News

Paonia just happens to be the home of one of Jeff's favorite papers, "High Country News". The subscription was first purchased for Jeff by a friend who had been visiting and thought Jeff would enjoy. Jeff has maintained the subscription because he really enjoys how they bring the news of the west. Since one of their regular features is to show photographs of subscribers



The High Country News meets the Ute Country News.



Beautiful Indian Paintbrush flowers were sighted in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

who came to visit, we just had to stop by.

Krista Langlois, Editorial Fellow, was the one to greet us and became our tour guide. I was surprised how willing they were to give us a tour on the spot. Everyone seemed so friendly, stopping their busy day to say "hello" and ask where we are from. When we mentioned we came to town with the intention of touring the Austin Family Farm, they nodded their heads in acknowledgement of the family, and welcomed us in. (Please see article in this issue on page 4).

Krista took us from one end of the building to the other, introducing us to all their departments on the way. Jeff has over 30 years of newspaper experience, so he was able to relate to just about everything and everyone. Krista was kind enough to pose for a photo for our paper as well. Thanks for the friendliest newspaper tour ever!

### Ollies Ice Cream

No small town is complete without an ice cream parlor. We visited Ollies. The folks there are friendly, and the tables are clean, both inside and outside. Most importantly, the ice cream is delicious and the malts are marvelous. We decided to visit daily and highly recommend you do too!

### Flying Fork

While wandering through town, we decided to check out a few menus. There was a bit of a medical situation that limited our choices; Jeff was unable to eat anything thicker than mashed potatoes. The Flying Fork had lots of pasta offerings, so we gave that a try. The server was willing to "side" a few questionable aspects of the main dish, and to over-cook the pasta as a strange, but understandable request. It was delicious! The pasta paired well with a Rennegade brew for Jeff and I enjoyed a local vodka.



The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park is an incredibly beautiful geological feature.

### The Living Farm Cafe

On one of our trips to/from the Black Canyon of the Gunnison, we drove past a beautiful patch of well-worked land with a sign, "The Living Farm". So when we saw the café, we had to check out the menu. Who could refuse farm fresh eggs, home-made bread, and locally raised food?

We asked to see a dinner menu while enjoying breakfast and explained to our servers, Jade and Liz, the nature of Jeff's dietary restriction. We wondered if the macaroni and cheese offered for lunch could potentially be a dinner option. Liz went to check, and returned confident that if we came back for dinner, we would be accommodated.

When it was time for dinner, we returned to the Living Farm Café. When we asked about the macaroni and cheese, Jennifer Beck, the manager, said, "We've been expecting you!" Jeff's macaroni and cheese was perfect and my ravioli was fantastic, made with local goat cheese from their farm.

The farm produces more than just goat cheese. There are various wool items for sale: hats, socks, scarves, and the like, neatly displayed among various local jams, sauces, and other fair made by the locals.

We mentioned how homey it feels and that we were here to interview the Austin Family Farm. Jennifer nodded in acknowledgement, saying what a nice family they are and how much they enjoy those evenings when the Austin Family dines with them; after all, they do contribute some of the food.

Jennifer shared a local legend told to her when she first moved to Paonia: As the Utes were forcibly removed from this area, they said, "This is a lush valley. If your work is done to help others — you will prosper. Anyone trying to work this valley for greed is sure to fail." Jennifer said, "I didn't take that seriously when I first heard it, but now that I think of it — it's true!"

Since breakfast was so tasty Friday, we decided to have our last meal at the Living Café on Saturday morning, as well. Both Jennifer and Liz were working; it was welcoming to be greeted by their smiling faces. We've agreed: we will be returning to Paonia and expect to return to the Living Farm Café.

We headed out of town on Hwy 133, following the Muddy River. This is really a pretty trip. We enjoyed noticing how the river came "up" to greet us at certain spots and how far "down there" it was in other spots. Those enjoy the wonderful world of altitude will enjoy this ride.

We turned on Hwy 82 heading to Aspen; after all, this was the weekend Independence Pass was to open. We could appreciate how there could be five foot high snow drifts on either side of the road in some places and no snow to be seen in others.

## The Thymekeeper



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Critter Corner



Molson - Donna Hudson, Divide



Charlie - Julie Faria, Florissant



Pancho - Linda Karlin, Florissant

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

Nature's little jewels

by Danielle Dellinger

The sun shone down upon the town of Lake George. Though the town itself was small, the homes of the residents branched off into the forested hills. The town was established in 1891 as a stop for the Colorado Midland Railway. The actual lake of Lake George, which sits to the left of the highway if travelling west, glittered in the bright sun.

George Frost created the lake to supply ice to the railroad. It was first named George's Lake, but when the post office opened it was changed to Lake George. Because the lake froze mostly solid during winter, it enabled men to cut out blocks of ice from it to keep perishables cold. After 1900, nearby ranchers and farmers began raising high-altitude potatoes, creating additional traffic for the Colorado Midland Railway. However, after the railroad closed in 1918 and the mining of ore stalled, the tracks were torn up. Emilia stood on the shore of Lake George, watching the cars pass by on Highway 24. The sun was hot, and she had to shield her eyes as she looked east toward the hills that hid Florissant from view. She tried to imagine what it had been like to see the Colorado Midland rolling into town. She wondered if mule deer had run along beside it like dolphins swim beside ships. She smiled as she pictured what that would have looked like. Thinking of animals always made her smile. The screech of a hawk overhead drew her attention from her thoughts, and she looked up to watch the bird of prey circle around, riding the updrafts. She was that girl who wondered what it was like to fly. A horn then sounded from the parking lot of the 11 Mile Lodge, and she saw her parents waving to her. She ran over and got in the car, grinning ear to ear.

She and her family actually lived in the hills a few minutes outside of Lake George, and the drive along the winding dirt road was always a pretty one, especially when the sun was in the right spot to illuminate the normally shadowed parts of the forest. She would always try to spot wildlife in the deeper parts of the forest as they drove by. When they got home, Emilia went out onto their deck that looked down the side of a tree-covered hill toward a valley far off in the distance. She could hear chickadees calling to each other, and mourning doves cooing from nearby trees. As she tried to spot one of the mourning doves, she heard the familiar zing of a hummingbird and saw a flash of emerald feathers.

She'd barely blinked when a male ruby-throated hummingbird appeared a foot from her face and stared into her eyes. It then flew straight up into the air, high above the very top of their house, and then dove down in one big swoop. Emilia grinned, watching it climb high into the air again, then dive down once more, going toward her mother's garden this time. She quickly ran down the deck's steps to the garden, finding the hummingbird drinking from a hollyhock flower. The pink petals made the green and red feathers on the hummingbird stand out beautifully. She crouched down, fascinated by watching it hover in the air as it sipped its sweet treat. Her mom's garden always attracted the most beautiful animals.

On the other side of the hollyhock stalk she saw a female broad-tailed hummingbird feeding from a purple hollyhock blossom. It only took a couple of minutes for the two to spot each other. They flew at each other, then zoomed into the air, trying to chase the other away from the hollyhock stalk. Emilia watched with interest, observing their behavior and trying to learn what she could from just watching. The two hummingbirds buzzed at each other for a moment, then flew back down to Emilia, hovering a foot from her face. They then flew away from her a few feet, stopped, and looked back at her. Then they flew away a few more feet. Emilia got the hint and followed them. She had only walked for a minute when she noticed the forest had become extremely dense. She frowned and stopped, looking

around. She didn't remember it being this thick and dense any other time she'd walked this way. She looked back toward her house, but it was gone from view, overgrown foliage blocking out nearly everything. She looked forward again to see the hummingbirds hovering several hundred yards away, waiting for her. She quickly jogged to them, being mindful of where she stepped. She reached them, and they all continued on.

Sunshine weakly made it through the mid-canopy of the trees. It all was unnatural for that type of forest. Time became irrelevant as Emilia walked, with still no clear destination. The hummingbirds soon disappeared from view, and Emilia fought her way through thick shrubs and bushes. She was shocked at what she found on the other side. She'd never expected anything like it. There were flowers of all types and sizes and colors. They were all hummingbird-friendly. Her eyes got bigger as she spotted different types of hummingbirds. There was a blue-throated one, a calliope one, of course a ruby-throated one, and even an albino hummingbird. There was one, called a magnificent hummingbird, zipping from flower to flower. A black-chinned hummingbird chased around a broad-billed hummingbird. Emilia heard a low hum from above, and immediately knew that a rufous hummingbird was in the area, probably feeling threatened by all the activity around the flowers it perceived as his.

The two birds that had led her there hovered on either side of her head, quietly twittering to each other. Emilia smiled, something about this place feeling magical. She looked to the side and saw a Chinese bread oven. During the period of the Colorado Midland Railway, Chinese labor had been imported. Tiny nests covered the floor of the oven. The female hummingbirds that had mated were flying back and forth with spider silk in their beaks. It's what every hummingbird uses to help hold the nest together and bind it to whatever surface it's on. Emilia moved closer to watch them wrap the silk around their nests, using their thin beaks to tuck it into every nook and cranny. It was mesmerizing to watch.

The different colors of the birds' feathers glinted in what little light made it through the thick foliage overhead. A dazzling emerald green caught Emilia's eye, drawing her attention away from the nest building. When she focused on the small creature, she realized it was a green violetear hummingbird. This particular hummingbird was hardly ever seen this far north from Mexico, let alone in the mountains. She watched as it seemed to dance in the air, enjoying life. The others that had been feeding on the nectar below it flew up and began dancing with it. Emilia could tell that this was a female green violetear by how dull her feathers were. She wondered if there was a male around. She had barely finished wondering when her two travel companions tugged on her sleeves, trying to pull her back out of the little cove.

She frowned but allowed herself to be taken out. The minute she was on the other side of the shrubs and bushes, the sunlight was streaming down through the tall pine trees, and when she looked behind her she saw that her mother's garden was only a few feet away.

"How did we get here?" she muttered, looking back to where she had just come, and finding that even the shrubs and bushes were gone.

She frowned deeply and turned in a circle, trying to figure out what was going on. That's when she spotted the sun setting behind the hills. A moment later her mother was calling her inside for dinner. She hurried inside, feeling very unsettled. She didn't know that the majority of the hummingbirds from the cove were sitting high up in the trees watching her.

The next morning she hurried out to the garden. The sun was just beginning to warm the air and the earth. She sat on the rock bench near the hollyhocks the hummingbirds had

visited the previous day. She waited and waited for one of them to show up. When after an hour there still wasn't any sign of them, she got up and wandered into the forest to try to find the cove. She walked for a few hours, but wasn't able to find anything. Feeling saddened, she returned home.

The next couple of days passed with the same results. Emilia's frustration mounted higher inside of her, and she had to turn to drawing to relieve it. She sat at the dining room table and drew the green violetear hummingbird from memory. Her mother moved about the kitchen, occasionally coming over and admiring her work, giving her high praise for what she was doing. Emilia only nodded and smiled a little, not breaking stride in what she was doing.

By dinnertime her drawing was finished, and she laid it on the desk in the corner of the living room, planning to finish coloring it after dinner. She sat and ate her dinner quietly, watching a robin hop along the deck railing. When she was done eating, she went to the desk and finished coloring her drawing. Once it was completed, she hung it up on the fridge for everyone to enjoy. She smiled as she looked at it for a moment. She went to bed that night feeling happy and accomplished.

At dawn, when the sky was beginning to turn pink, there came a soft tapping and humming from her window. She rolled over and cracked open her eyes. It took a minute for her eyes to focus on a pair of albino hummingbirds hovering expectantly outside. She clumsily got out of bed and went to the window, rubbing her head. The little birds looked up at her and then zoomed away out of sight, returning a minute later. They seemed to be upset by something. Emilia quickly dressed and went outside. The birds instantly flew off into the forest, and Emilia ran after them, doing her best to keep up. It wasn't long before more hummingbirds were flying overhead, the combined hum of their wings making Emilia's head hurt. She soon found herself outside of the cove, and she looked up to see a loggerhead shrike hopping from branch to branch around the cove, trying to find an opening to dive through. Emilia had barely finished processing the situation when the shrike suddenly dove, disappearing down into the cove.

There suddenly came all these terrible screeches and cries from inside the once-magical place. Emilia fought her way through the bushes, stumbling inside. The shrike was chasing down any hummingbird that it could. Emilia gasped, grabbed a stick, and rushed forward, waving it in the air in hopes of distracting the bird. It worked, except the shrike rounded on her, thinking it could take her down. It pecked at her head and fluttered its wings in her eyes. Emilia cried out, waving her arms out in front of her, trying to shoo it away. Its little claws sliced the backs of her hands open.

The stick fell to the ground and Emilia dropped to her hands and knees, crawling away to a hide in a bush. She crouched there as the shrike went back to chasing around the hummingbirds. Emilia didn't know what to do. How could a bird like that be stopped? The pair of rufous hummingbirds were on the attack now, getting in the shrike's face in an attempt to overwhelm it. Emilia could tell that something wasn't right with the shrike, that something was chemically imbalanced to make it attack them all at once. She crawled out from the bush, and was just about to start forward when the shrike dive-bombed the female green violetear. Emilia gasped as the hummingbird narrowly escaped.

The shrike flew up and readied itself for another dive. Emilia started forward again as the shrike began its descent. Suddenly, a male green violetear flew up from out of nowhere and confronted the shrike. The two swirled up into the air, their feet lashing out at each other. It was horrifyingly beautiful to watch. But then the shrike thrust its claws

into the hummingbird's chest, and was suddenly diving it toward the ground where part of a stick was poking up out of the grass. Emilia shouted and ran toward them.

"No no no no no!" she yelled.

The other hummingbirds were diving to the rescue as well.

Emilia didn't know how she did it, but she got to them just before the male was impaled on the stick, bringing her hand down between the two, knocking them apart. The shrike flew up while the male fell to the ground, stunned and winded. Emilia knelt by him and looked up as a swarm of hummingbirds surrounded the shrike, pushing it up and out of the cove. She looked back down at the male and scooped him up into her hands. She put him close to her ear, listening to him wheeze. She didn't think he had a punctured lung based on how he was breathing and where the shrike's claws had been in him.

She noticed everything was silent now, and she looked to see the hummingbirds sitting on various perches around her and the male green violetear.

"He'll be okay," she said gently to them.

She carefully put him in her pocket and carried him out of the cove and back to her house. She grabbed the first-aid kit, looked up how to treat puncture wounds, then went to work on her little friend. She talked softly to him all the while. She returned to the cove and made a little bed for him in a bush, his head near an open blossom. She smiled as the other birds buzzed around her happily. The violetear's mate flew down into the little bed, nuzzling him.

Emilia sat back and watched happily. She was glad everyone was okay. She got up and decided to patch up the hole in the cove's ceiling. For the next few days, she was allowed to find the cove as she fixed the hole. She brought a feeder with food specially made for them. She put some in her hand and let them land on her fingers to eat. She giggled a little because their little feet tickled. She checked on the nesting females one more time before leaving for the night.

She tried to get to the cove a few days later, but couldn't find it. A month passed, and one day she was on the deck when she heard a tiny buzzing sound. A tiny green violetear hummingbird flew by, its mother following. She smiled; glad to see a new little jewel of nature.

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## Dave Paul Joins PSB & T's team

by Perini and Associates

Park State Bank & Trust recently announced Dave Paul has joined the bank's team as a mortgage loan officer.

"We have a good mortgage program. We listen to customers who have asked for additional mortgage options," according to Tony Perry, President and CEO of Park State Bank & Trust. "To better serve our customers, we chose to bring Dave, who has a strong and exemplary mortgage background, on to our team."

"I am excited to have the opportunity to again be associated with Park State Bank & Trust, our community's most respected bank," Paul said.

When Paul started writing mortgages in Teller County back in 1999, it was in the old Park State building. "We grew together and over the years, even after we moved to other locations, we continued to work together on a referral basis," Paul said. "So formalizing those relationships was a logical progression."

Paul believes that his educational and relationship-based approach to home financing is what separates him from competitors. "I work with clients to determine their goals and customize financing options that offer them the best mechanism to achieve success, while providing in-depth information to insure that they fully understand the process," he said.

Paul's loan assistant, Jeannine Kuntz will be working with him as well. "We will now offer all of the available conventional and government-backed products including conforming, VA, FHA, USDA, and jumbo, as well as reverse mortgages," he said.

Paul said he will also be able to identify qualified clients who may fall outside the conventional lending parameters and provide direct mortgage financing through the bank. "Once our mortgages are finalized, regardless of who may

be servicing them, we encourage our clients to bring any issues they may have to us, and we can help them navigate through them to a satisfactory solution," he said. Paul is committed to providing exceptional service and is committed to the community. His clients agree.

### About Dave Paul

Paul serves in multiple local, regional and state-wide capacities: Chairman of the Teller County Board of County Commissioners, Chairman of the Pikes Peak Workforce Center Executive Board, and a director of the County Technical Services Inc. Workers' Compensation Board.

Paul was appointed by the governor to the Limited Gaming Impact Grant Committee, and is a member, representing the mountain district, of the Board of Directors for Colorado Counties Inc., which is the state-wide lobbying organization representing Colorado counties.

Paul is a long-time supporter of Rotary International having served as Centennial President of the Pikes Peak Rotary Club. He has a lengthy record of support for the Symphony Above the Clouds, having been honored as the 2013 guest conductor. Paul was also the founder and long-time CEO Service Financial Inc. (SFI).

If you are interested in consulting with Paul for your mortgage needs, he can be reached at 719.687.9234 or you can stop by Park State Bank & Trust, located at 710 U.S. Hwy 24, Woodland Park, CO. Paul is available during bank hours and by appointment after hours and on weekends.



Dave Paul

## CASA

by Karen Hughes

You can make a profound difference in the life of an abused or neglected child. There are children in need of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) who will fight for their rights. CASA's vision is to ensure a trusted, empowered advocate for EVERY child, every day. Contact Kelly, (719) 447-9898 ext. 1033 or [kellyp@casapp.org](mailto:kellyp@casapp.org), for more information.



## Summer Solstice storytelling

by Jeff Wolin

Celebrate the Summer Solstice, the longest day and shortest night of the year! We'll explore the importance of the seasons to the historical inhabitants of the area, and celebrate by sharing some of the star and constellation stories told by native peoples. In the telescope, we'll see Mars, Saturn, and some of the best star clusters, nebulae, and other deep-sky treasures of the summer. Meet at the Visitor Center. This event is June 21, 2014 from 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Please dress warmly, as evenings at the park's high elevation can be cool even in the summer. Bring binoculars or a flashlight if you wish (red-filtered lights only please). Also,

please note that viewing is weather-dependent, and takes place only if the sky is clear. Indoor presentations take place rain or shine.

Admission for the program is the regular park entrance fee which is \$3 per adult (16 years and older) children and federal pass holders are free. Please call (719) 748-3253 ext. 202 for more information.

For additional information visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/ffjo](http://www.nps.gov/ffjo) or call at (719) 748-3253 ext. 202.

Follow us on Twitter at @FlorissantNPS and on Facebook/FlorissantNPS or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/ffjo](http://www.nps.gov/ffjo)

## Ghosts of trains past

Who hasn't driven up Ute Pass and imagined hearing a train whistle and seeing a colorful Colorado Midland RR locomotive racing along beside, belching smoke, on the old rail grade? Sadly, the tracks were torn up in 1949, only the ghost of the old train remains...and the Midland Depot in Divide. On Sunday, June 15, you are invited to join host Dave Martinek as he tells the story of the Midland and its Divide Depot.

Ute Indians had been forcibly removed to Utah before the Midland wound its way along their Ute Pass trail in 1886. Nonetheless, the Midland chose a noble Ute warrior as its logo.

CMRR's standard gauge rails were the first to penetrate the Colorado Rockies, eliminating the costly expense of eastern railroads offloading freight onto the prevailing narrow gauge lines.

In 1895, a spur, The Midland Terminal Railway, spun south from Divide, Colorado, to the gold fields in Cripple Creek district. The Midland Depot was constructed at this juncture in 1886, burned in 1887, and was rebuilt in 1903.

Host Dave Martinek is a Vietnam veteran, a retired communications executive, a realtor and a train buff. He is chair of the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition (T.H.E. Coalition), and is leading a committee to restore and preserve the Midland Depot at Divide.

The Pikes Peak Historical Society invites you to learn the story of the Midland Depot when they host Dave Martinek on Sunday, June 15, for their monthly Chautauqua (free program), at 2:00 pm at the Florissant Library. The Library is located adjacent to the Florissant Community Park on 334 Circle Drive in Florissant.

Martinek's program is presented as a public service of the Pikes Peak Historical Society. Admission is free, and refreshments are served. Seating is limited. For more information, call 719-748-3562.



Midland train going through Elevenmile Canyon.



CMRR's logo



Midland Train depot at Divide.

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## A VFW Memorial Day weekend

by Maurice Wells  
photo by Maurice Wells

While most of us were enjoying a bar-b-que with friends or a visit with grandchildren, members of VFW Post 11411 were confronting temperatures of 45° F at the Wilkerson Pass Visitors Center where they provided coffee and snacks for travelers.

Volunteers said that over the years they have had visitors from as far away as Germany and Saudi Arabia. Often travelers, not taking time for coffee, will stop, run from their car, drop off a donation, give a sincere "Thank You" and return to their vehicle to continue their trip.



Volunteers dress for the weather.

Throughout the weekend the honking of horns can be heard from appreciative tourists. The Post is grateful to the U. S. Forest Service for providing the deck space for this activity.

## PPACG Board allocates final \$2M for I-25/Fillmore intersection completion

At their May 14, 2014 meeting, the PPACG Board of Directors voted unanimously to provide the final \$2 million in funding required for the \$13 million I-25 and Fillmore interchange project. The funding comes from a mix of gas taxes and PPRTA funds, and is allocated through the regional prioritization process.

"In the past six months, the PPACG Board has funded the top two priority transportation projects for the region," said PPACG Executive Director Rob MacDonald. The top priority was the \$95 million I-25 and Cimarron interchange, which is scheduled for completion in July 2017. This project follows the \$70 million I-25 widening project being completed this summer.

Dennis Hisey, El Paso County Commission and Chair of the PPACG Board, notes that the regional approach to prioritizing critical transportation projects takes time, but is worth the effort to improve the regional transportation system. "We are \$178 million better off in our transportation system in just a few years' time," he said.

The purpose of the I-25/Fillmore project is

to replace the current overpass with a diverging diamond interchange, a relatively new concept in traffic engineering.

"While at first they seem really strange, the driver experience isn't really that different from regular interchanges, and they function a lot more efficiently," said PPACG Transportation Director Craig Casper. CDOT provides illustrated graphics of the proposed project on their website (www.coloradodot.info/projects/i25fillmore/ddi-simulation).

According to CDOT, the project requests for proposals will go out in June, and the contract will be awarded a month later. Construction will begin in August or September and will last approximately 12-18 months.

PPACG is a voluntary association of 16 municipal and county governments serving a regional community. Since 1967, PPACG has worked to ensure that local governments have a forum to discuss issues that cross their political boundaries, identify shared opportunities and challenges, and develop collaborative strategies for action. For more information, visit www.ppacg.org.

## Painting the town, fire-engine red!

by Kathy Hansen  
photos by Jeff Hansen



Victor Fire Station has two new murals by local artist Michael Noel Wallace, aka Noel. Noel began drawing the trucks on the doors the evening of Friday, May 2nd then began painting Saturday, May 3rd at 9 a.m.

This is not the first mural in Victor painted by Noel; he also painted City Hall, Community Center Ceiling in the Elks Lodge, a mural on the Junk Posse, and the mural inside of the Headframe Tavern (which he owned when it was Sally's).

Thinking of thanking Noel? You'll have to

wait. He's out painting murals in other towns such as, San Francisco, Puerto Vallarta, and Pasadena.



## Wanted: dead, not alive

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

It's invasion time. Weeds are springing up in an effort to outcompete native vegetation throughout our region. Keeping an eye out to spot and control these invaders is critical for limiting their spread.

### What is a noxious weed?

Non-native weeds are classified as noxious if they aggressively invade native plant communities or crops; can poison livestock; can carry damaging insects, diseases, or parasites; or are detrimental to the environment. Noxious weeds excel at adapting and proliferating, wreaking havoc as they spread. These weeds displace native vegetation, threatening wildlife habitat, valuable natural resources, and recreation areas.

The economic impacts are great as well. Noxious weeds cost Americans billions of dollars every year. Coloradans suffer harvest losses, damage to livestock, and lost productivity. These losses add up to an economic hit of millions of dollars every year in our state. In addition to these wide-reaching impacts, some noxious weeds can also cause skin irritation and other health effects.

### What can I do?

Besides being the right thing to do for our community and our environment, controlling noxious weeds on your property is required by the Noxious Weed Act. By law, all Colorado residents must manage noxious weeds that may spread and damage neighboring properties.

Preventing the establishment of noxious weeds is the best method of control, and can be done by supporting the health of native plant populations. Noxious weeds are particularly adept at invading areas with bare soil; including land recently impacted by severe fire and over-grazed pastures. Once established, noxious weeds are fierce competitors and are difficult to eradicate. Some noxious weeds even produce chemicals that deter other plants from growing near the weeds.

If you do discover a patch of nox-

ious weeds, take action immediately before the weed has a chance to spread. Control methods differ by species, so be sure to use the resources at the end of this article or call the Coalition for the Upper South Platte at (719) 748-0033 to determine the best treatment options for different noxious weeds.

When handling noxious weeds, always wear gloves and protective clothing. Never dispose of

weed clippings in the trash or a compost pile. Please see the tables of noxious weeds are commonly found in our area.

**Additional resources:**  
Colorado Department of Agriculture: [http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/ag\\_Consevation/CBON/1251618780047](http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/ag_Consevation/CBON/1251618780047)  
Colorado State University Extension: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/sam/weeds.html>

Coalition for the Upper South Platte: <http://www.upsouthplatte-weeds.org>  
Park & Teller County Weed Program  
Mary Menz (719) 686-9405 ext 104  
mary.menz@co.nacdn.net  
Coalition for the Upper South Platte  
(719) 748-0033  
cusp@upsouthplatte.org

Noxious Weed	Characteristics	Hazards	Control Methods
Canada Thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 1 to 4 feet tall</li> <li>Flowers are lavender to purple</li> <li>Prickly leaf edges with hairy stems</li> <li>Spreads by seed &amp; creeping roots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can cause skin irritation - wear gloves &amp; long sleeves when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Never till or break roots, as root disturbance propagates growth</li> <li>Continually stress Canada thistle, through spring grazing, mowing, and other methods</li> </ul>
Musk Thistle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 4 to 6 feet tall</li> <li>Flowers are purple to rose color &amp; up to 3 inches in diameter</li> <li>Long, sharp spiny leaf edges with hairless stems</li> <li>Spreads by seed, with a single tap root</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can cause skin irritation - wear gloves &amp; long sleeves when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bag blossom heads when in bloom</li> <li>Severing the root below the soil will kill musk thistle</li> </ul>
Oxeye Daisy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perennial herb</li> <li>Grows to 24 inches tall</li> <li>Leaves are fine &amp; thread-like</li> <li>Reproduces by seed, which can remain viable for years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can cause blistering of muzzles &amp; skin rashes in livestock</li> <li>Displaces native daisies, which have smaller flowers with narrow petals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pull up &amp; bag oxeye daisies, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> <li>Goat or sheep grazing</li> </ul>
Scotch Chamomile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Escaped ornamental</li> <li>Grows 1.5 to 2 feet tall</li> <li>Leaves are fine &amp; thread-like</li> <li>Reproduces by seed, which can remain viable for years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can cause blistering of muzzles &amp; skin rashes in livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mowing will assist in the short-term by limiting seed production</li> <li>Hand pull &amp; bag small infestations</li> </ul>
Yellow Toadflax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also known as butter &amp; eggs</li> <li>Grows up to 2 feet tall</li> <li>Creamy yellow flowers with an orange throat</li> <li>Extensive root system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contains a glucoside poisonous to livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent establishment with robust native vegetation populations</li> <li>Predatory insects are available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> </ul>
Common Mullen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 2 to 6 feet tall</li> <li>Yellow flowers are located on terminal spikes, which may reach up to 20 inches in length</li> <li>Light green, hairy leaves</li> <li>Not to be confused with Miner's Candle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand pull or dig out prior to flowering &amp; seed production</li> <li>Bag flowering heads, ensuring seeds do not scatter or spread</li> </ul>
Myrtle Spurge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 4 to 6 inches tall &amp; can spread 18 inches laterally</li> <li>Yellow-green pod-type flowers</li> <li>Spreads by seed</li> <li>Grows annually from taproot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milky sap is toxic - wear gloves, long sleeves, &amp; eye protection when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand pull or dig out, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> </ul>
Leafy Spurge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows up to 4 feet tall</li> <li>Yellow-green pod-type flowers</li> <li>Bluish leaves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parts of the plant have a milky latex that can be damaging to the eyes &amp; skin - wear gloves, long sleeves, &amp; eye protection when handling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheep or goat grazing</li> <li>Predatory insects are available; contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> <li>Mowing every 2 to 4 weeks will reduce seed production</li> </ul>

Noxious Weed	Characteristics	Hazards	Control Methods
Orange Hawkweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also known as devil's paintbrush</li> <li>Grows up to 24 inches tall</li> <li>Flowers are light pink to white &amp; have 5 petals</li> <li>Leaves are smooth, narrow, &amp; 2 to 4 inches long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent establishment of this new invader with robust native vegetation populations</li> </ul>
Bouncingbet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows up to 3 feet tall</li> <li>Flowers are light pink to white &amp; have 5 petals</li> <li>Leaves are smooth, narrow, &amp; 2 to 4 inches long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can be poisonous to humans &amp; livestock, causing gastrointestinal irritation &amp; destroying red blood cells when absorbed in the blood streams of grazing animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand pull or dig out only single plants or new infestations when soil is moist, ensuring the entire root system is removed</li> </ul>
Diffuse Knapweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 1.5 to 2 feet tall</li> <li>Flowers are mostly white &amp; solitary</li> <li>Has a sharper spine at the end of the bract (modified leaf just below the flower)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dried, rough bracts can damage the skin</li> <li>Produces a chemical herbicide that prevents the growth of surrounding plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severing the root below the soil will kill diffuse knapweed</li> <li>Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
Spotted Knapweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows up to 4 feet tall</li> <li>Flowers are pink to lavender &amp; solitary</li> <li>Leaves are hairy</li> <li>Seed head bracts are black tipped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produces a chemical herbicide that prevents the growth of surrounding plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dig out, ensuring the entire root system is removed</li> <li>Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
Hairy Cress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also known as whittop</li> <li>Grows 10 to 24 inches tall</li> <li>Small, white flowers</li> <li>Leaves are about 4 inches long, with fine white hairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimize disturbance &amp; seed dispersal</li> <li>Mow repeatedly before flowering</li> </ul>
Field Bindweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows low to the ground</li> <li>Funnel-shaped flowers are white to pink</li> <li>Arrowhead-shaped leaves</li> <li>Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 40 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cut below the surface in the early seedling stage</li> <li>Predatory gall midges are available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture 970-464-7916</li> </ul>
Purple Loosestrife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows up to 8 feet tall</li> <li>Purple flowers on long, vertical heads</li> <li>Spreads by seed; pieces of roots or stems can also produce new plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaces native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand pull or dig out before going to seed, ensuring all roots are pulled up</li> <li>Remove &amp; bag flowering heads</li> </ul>
Black Hellebore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grows 1 to 3 feet tall</li> <li>Small flowers are brownish on the outside, with purplish center &amp; veins</li> <li>Leaves are coarsely toothed with thick hairs</li> <li>Foul odor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All parts of the plant are poisonous to livestock and humans when ingested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hand pull or dig out, ensuring the entire tap root system is removed</li> <li>Always bag specimens</li> </ul>

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**Market Corrections in Real Estate**

One question continually directed to those of us in the real estate industry is "how's the market?"

The national news constantly changes, but all real estate is still local - and buyers are again pulling out of other investments to take advantage of our still reasonable prices here in our area as they see prices are going up again.

According to a national study, from 2000 to 2006 real estate appreciation was a whopping 89%; from 2006 to 2011 it dropped 34%. This is still a 55% appreciation overall, or 5% a year - not bad for enjoying the lifestyle here in the mountains that we all favor.

I'm selling a great number of homes this year and am always looking for new clients to assist. Call me for a listing consultation and get prepared for the coming months of high activity!

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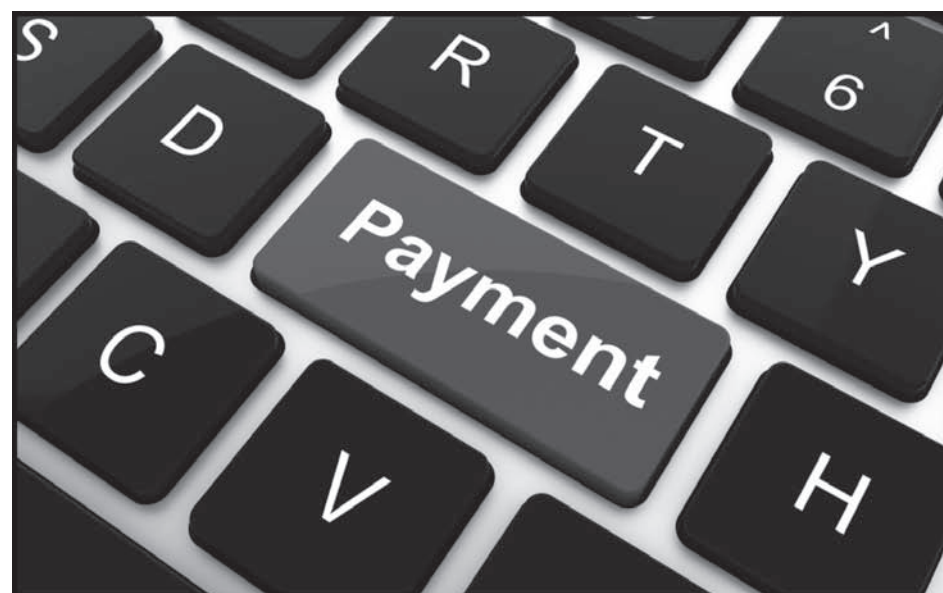
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## Tour a real gold mine from the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum

Experience mining old and new this summer and explore gold rush history past and present at the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum. The Museum, which is has operated in its current location for over 50 years, is open and once again will be hosting tours of the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company operations near Victor.

Modern mine tours will start at 1 p.m. in Victor at the Museum. These popular gold mine tours feature the modern mining operations of Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company. Tour experiences will offer the chance to see giant haul trucks, shovels and drill rigs in action in the large surface mine between Victor and Cripple Creek, Colorado. Watch boulders being crushed into gravel and learn about the modern refining methods while helping to preserve the 1890's history - all tour proceeds go to the Museum, where the tours begin.

This summer the mine tours will be available through Sept. 1 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily except no tours will be held on Thursdays. Check VictorColorado.com for additional tour times and fall dates. The cost is \$7.50 per person - an affordable way for the entire family to see a real working gold mine. Only children 5 years of age and older are allowed on the tours. Please be sure to reserve your tour dates early as they are very popular and fill up quickly. Reservations may be made online at VictorColorado.com or by leaving a message at 719-689-4211 or 719-689-5509. The maximum on each tour is 13. The best way to reserve a mine



tour is online at VictorColorado.com - online reservations receive first priority.

In addition to the mine tours, you can step back in time and pan for gold at the museum. Panning is included in this year's admission prices and is a great way to spend an hour in cool, sunny Victor this summer. You can also step back in time literally by hiking on the Trails of Gold just outside of town - see up close the 1890's gold mines that made Victor and Cripple Creek famous, or walk the downtown streets (interpretive trail) filled with historic buildings and shops.

Find a fresh brewed cup of coffee and fresh-baked cookie at the nearby bakery, grab burgers and milk shakes, pizza or a cold one at the local eateries, or spend some time looking for a collectible or piece of fine art at the local shops. The historic Victor Hotel offers a place to stay the night in case you lose track of time in the quiet, historic mountain setting.

For more information or to make a reservation for a mine tour, visit VictorColorado.com.

## Victor Adventure Camps launched

Tarla and Mark Perdew have been running Rocky Mountain Soccer Camps out of the Historic Victor School since 2007. This marks their eighth summer of operating camps in Victor, and it promises to be very busy, as the school has 15 different soccer camps that we will be hosted this year. Starting this summer, the Perdew's will be adding to what they already do with the soccer camps by offering 3-Day Elevation Adventure Camps. These events are available by reservation and will include hiking, historical tours, team building and stargazing.

"In essence, these are many of the things that we already do with the soccer camps, without the soccer!" said Mark Perdew.

"We know that we are catering to a different clientele with these Elevation Adventure Camps and we hope to expose Victor and the surrounding area to the growing number of heritage tourists that are traveling and vacationing during the summer months," said Tarla Perdew.

For more information please contact Mark Perdew at (719) 689-5547 or [www.rockymountain-soccercamp.com](http://www.rockymountain-soccercamp.com)

## Turn your retirement "Vision" into reality

by Edward Jones

Retirement can be an exciting, active time of your life. But if you're going to get the full benefits from your retirement years — which could last two, or even three, decades — you'll need to have a vision for what you want to do. To transform this vision into reality, you'll need to take a "holistic" approach; one that involves a financial strategy, clear communications with family members, and an awareness of the challenges that may stand in your way.

To articulate and achieve your vision, ask yourself a series of questions, such as the following:

### What do I want to do?

When you retire, do you plan on traveling around the world? Purchasing a vacation home? Pursuing your hobbies? Or maybe you're even thinking of opening a small business. Clearly, you have many options and you'll need to be aware that some choices are going to be more costly than others. If you can identify how you want to spend your retirement years and then put a "price tag" on your goal, or at least come up with a pretty good estimate of how much money you'll need each year, you can then create an appropriate investment strategy. Such a strategy will include both your need for growth and your need for income. Your investment strategy will also need to be based on your risk tolerance, family situation and time horizon. How many years do you have until your retirement?

### What "roadblocks" might I encounter?

As you work to achieve your retirement vision, you may well encounter some "roadblocks" along the way. One significant roadblock is the amount of health care expenses you might face during retirement. Many people

think Medicare will cover everything, but that's not the case. In fact, you could easily spend a few thousand dollars each year, out of pocket, for health care costs. Since these costs typically rise as you move further into retirement, you'll need a reasonable portion of your assets to be allocated to investments with the potential for rising income. Even beyond normal health care costs, though, you'll need to be aware that you could eventually need some type of long-term care, such as a stay in a nursing home or assistance from a home health aide. These costs can be enormous; to cope with them, you need to prepare well ahead of time, so you may want to consult with your financial advisor for possible solutions.

### How can I protect my family?

Your retirement vision can't just involve yourself, or even yourself and your spouse. To fully enjoy your retirement years, you'll want to know that you are helping to protect your grown children from financial and emotional burdens that could fall on them should you become incapacitated in some way. Among the steps you might consider taking is establishing a durable power of attorney, which allows you to appoint an agent to manage your financial affairs, make health care decisions or conduct other business for you during your incapacitation. Consult with your legal advisor about creating a durable power of attorney.

You will find that having your retirement vision come to fruition can be a great feeling. So, do whatever it takes to make it happen.

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

## Refurbish, refinish, relax

by Erin Snyder

If you are looking for ways to spruce up your home décor, consider refinishing furniture and home accents before heading to the store. Not only can this be a fun DIY project, but it can save you money and prevent items from being tossed in the trash. You can refurbish wood furniture, upholstered items, picture frames, lamps - the list goes on and on. If you're looking to re-do an item in your home, here are a few tips to get you started:

### • Do a little research.

Find out what material you are working with and research the best ways to refinish or restore that particular material. You don't want to paint straight over veneer - the paint won't adhere correctly. It's best to sand it or remove the veneer entirely. On the other hand, you don't want to accidentally sand off an expensive finish on an antique dresser and decrease its value. Talk to the experts at your local hardware store, do an internet search or check out some books before taking on a refinishing project.



### • Keep things safe and clean.

Be sure to wear a protective mask and eye-wear whenever sanding, staining, or removing old finishes. The fumes and sawdust from these processes can be harmful. Make sure to work on projects in a well ventilated area. In addition, do all work on a protected surface and

be sure to have several clean rags, a trash bag and gloves handy.

### • Don't forget the before and after steps.

It's always fun to see the transformation as you paint or stain a piece, but don't underestimate the importance of proper preparation and finishing work. Steps like sanding, priming, waxing and sealing may be tedious, but they will ensure the look of your piece stays the way you want it to for the long haul.

• **Add a little interest to an existing piece.** You don't always need to completely refinish a piece to update it. For example, you can buy new knobs for a dresser or nightstand. Don't be afraid to mix different knobs to create a unique and attention-grabbing look. You can also update old hardware with paint. Try giving an old picture frame a quick coat of spray paint to quickly change the accent colors in a room. Swap out a lamp shade instead of replacing the whole lamp. Add a slipcover to an outdated sofa. Use a stencil to add a design to basic dresser drawers. It's easy to amp up the 'wow factor' with a little ingenuity.

### • Consider upcycling.

Not all items can be revived to serve their original purpose. However, there are many creative ways to upcycle them into other home décor pieces. Turn an old door into a headboard, glass bottles into pendant lights, an old dresser into a media console, or a coffee table into a kid's craft station...the possibilities are endless.

### • Don't be afraid to fail.

A lot of people are intimidated by DIY projects. Know that a mistake doesn't mean the end of the project. The information you will gain from your mistakes is invaluable to all future projects. You might also find that a mistake causes a transformation that is even better than you expected.

*Erin Snyder is a Professional Organizer and the author of the organizing blog Neaten Your Nest. For more information, please visit [www.neatenyournest.com](http://www.neatenyournest.com) or contact Erin at [erin@neatenyournest.com](mailto:erin@neatenyournest.com) or 678-622-6718.*



Erin Snyder

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# Fire-wising your property and homeowner's insurance

by Don and Donna Doty

Bud break is just beginning and that the season's outbreak looks to be worse than past years. The timing is now to have your trees protected by having them sprayed between June 1 and June 21. I will be spraying in the Indian Creek, Highland Lakes, Spring Valley, North highway 5, the Ed Lowe Road area, Westwood Lakes, Woodland West, Woodrock, Rigdewood, Casey's Lumber areas through June 21st. If you would like to get on our schedule please call our office. 687-6811. "Let's get them worms before they get your trees." Call to get on our schedule.

Since we started our deep root fertilization and preventative spraying programs back in March we have been on a lot of our client's properties and many have asked us if we do "fire-wising" Services? Our answer is: We sure do!

With the past fires in our area, as homeowners we have become more conscious of keeping our properties fire-wise. Also insurance companies, in some cases have become more stringent in their guidelines for insuring mountain properties. These guidelines go hand in hand with a healthier forest and insect prevention; as less crowded and healthier trees provide the aesthetics that we all want in our beautiful Colorado properties.

In some cases our clients have received some type of notification from their home owner's insurance company stating that they are going to make an on-site inspection to see if there are any trees or shrubs that need removed before their policies will be renewed. The term that is most commonly used is "fire-wising". What does that mean to you and your property?

Everyone's property is different and insurance companies have different standards for fire-wising requirements before they will authorize the approval of your homeowner's policy. Let's talk about some of the basic requirements to fire-wise and to maintain a healthier forest:

**Creating and maintaining a defensible space around your dwellings requires regular, ongoing maintenance to be effective.**

**Creating and maintaining a defensible space**

Defensible space is defined as the area between a structure and an oncoming wildfire where nearby vegetation has been modified to reduce a wildfire intensity. Our homes are located in areas with many trees, grasses and shrubs that continue to grow, die or are damaged due to weather conditions. Insects and natural defoliation of needles and leaves drop each season. Creating and maintaining a defensible space around your dwellings requires regular, ongoing maintenance to be effective.

Keep in mind that when you create a defensible space on your property you are not only being fire-wise, but you are fulfilling your homeowner insurance policy requirements, as well as creating a healthier forest. It is important to create and maintain a defensible space around structures. Here are some of the things that Timberline can do to help you to ensure a fire-wise property of our own.

- Properly thin and prune trees and shrubs around the perimeter of your home and out buildings. There should never be branches hanging over onto any building's roof or deck areas. Your trees should be pruned of all dead branches up to a height of 10 feet. This will make it safer should a firefighter need to pull hose around your home. The thinning of overcrowded and species specific trees will make the trees around your home healthier.
- Dispose of slash from tree/shrub thinning in a timely manner. Leaving green slash piles lying around healthy trees will only invite the IPS beetle to come and attack those trees nearest the piles. We are so fortunate that we have a slash dump in Divide that will take our forest by products.
- Roofs, eaves and foundation vents should be kept clean and periodically check them to ensure that they are in good condition and cleaned of debris.
- Areas under decks; screens should be 1/8-inch or smaller metal mesh (1/16-inch mesh is best) to keep out debris.
- Post signs at the end of the driveway with your last name and house number that are noncombustible, reflective and easily visible to emergency responders.
- Make sure that the driveway is wide enough for fire trucks to enter and exit, and that trees and branches are at a height that is adequately cleared for access by fire and emergency equipment. If you're not sure that you meet these access requirements contact your local fire department, they can advise you to be of assistance.
- Take before and after pictures of your completed defensible space. This is a great way to demonstrate to your insurance company that you have performed these important annual duties to keeping your property fire-wise.
- Clean gutters of pine needles. This task may need to be done several times over the course of the fire season.
- Mow grass and weeds to a height of six inches or less. Most of us have weed eater and mowers which should be used several times during the summer and fall.
- Rake all pine needles and other flammable debris away from the foundation of your home and decks.
- Remove trash and debris accumulations from the defensible space.
- Check chimney screens to make sure they are in place and in good condition. One of the questions that may be asked by your



Timberline Spraying Crew carrying an arm load of slash to the chipper.



Timberline crew member weed whacking to limit fire fuel.



Timberline employee, CSU graduate, is pruning dead lower branches of a ponderosa tree.

field insurance inspector is when was the last time you had your chimney cleaned. You should have it cleaned by a licensed professional annually.

- If you have pruned in the past you may need to check the regrowth of trees and shrubs

to make sure they haven't grown back into a possible problem. Properly thin and prune trees and shrubs.

- Do not stack firewood too close to the house. I often see clients stack their firewood between two trees, using these trees to support the fire wood pile. If this wood has been infested by beetles, those two trees will become infested the following year. Also keep stacked wood a safe distance away from your home to not become a fire fuel.

One of the most often asked questions I get is; what type of plants should be planted in our region of Colorado? Take into consideration watering and care freshly planted trees and shrubs require. Also consider native type trees and shrubs for best success.

When fire-wising, the most common misconception is that you will have to clear cut all trees and shrubs around your home. This is not the case. There are several shrubs and trees that will add color and vegetation around your home.

When considering what type of plants to purchase, you should research if your plants are resistant to wildfire. Look for these characteristics in your plant list. Low sap or resin content (deciduous plants), low growing plants around the house (wildflowers/ground covers), and slow growing with limited amount of maintenance. Look for plants with limited amounts of combustible dead branches for example lilac, and aspens. Select a species variety which will reduce insect infestation. Diversity planting always makes for a healthy forest.

Do not plant in large masses, use smaller islands, with small clusters adding separation between clusters. Having gravel, dirt, walkways between the plant areas is encouraged by most homeowner insurance policies. Surrounding the newly plants with mulch will assist in holding moisture during extended periods of drought. This mulch can be organic (wood chips) or inorganic like (rock or gravel). Plants with high moisture content are always a benefit to a successful fire-wise landscape.

We choose to live in the mountains to enjoy our beautiful trees. But with those pleasures come responsibility to be good stewards of our property. The removal of forest floor flammable debris, pruning of lower dead branches, thinning of overcrowded clusters of trees is the start to a healthy fire-wised property.

Call Timberline's team of professionals to assist in your fire-wising projects. We can pole saw branches up to 10 feet, chip slash piles, thin overcrowded stands of trees, rake needles and haul them away, as well as removing dead downed trees. (If you need to prune limbs higher than 10 feet we have talented licensed and insured tree climbers with boom trucks that we can recommend.)

This is the time of year to get those projects done. Call today to get on our schedule.



History Park

## Second Saturday Tour of History Park

by Judy Perkins, UPHS  
photo by Judy Perkins, UPHS

The Ute Pass Historical Society offers free public tours (donations gratefully accepted!) of History Park the second Saturday of the month from June through September. The tours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. History Park is located next to the Woodland Park Public Library. A historic walking tour of Woodland Park meets at 10:30 at the Museum Center in History Park. For more information, please contact UPHS at 719.686.7512 or visit our website at: uphs@peakinter.net. All tours are weather permitting.

## High Country Fishing

by Jeff Tacey

With the snow finally melting and the season "still winter" leaving spring alone; the high country lakes are starting to thaw out.

One of my favorites to fish is Montgomery Reservoir, 80 acres, 10,820 feet elevation at the base of Hoosier Pass. Opening day is June 1st. There are rainbow, cutthroat and brown trout swimming here. You can only fish the north and west shores as the south and east are private. Power Bait and worms work well. Silver or gold Kastmasters, Little Cleos, and Krocodiles provide fast action.

Take State Highway 9 north of Fairplay to access Montgomery Reservoir. Another great spot is Mt Elbert Reservoir, 200 acres, 9,700 feet elevation. To get to Forebay, go west on State Highway 82 between Buena Vista and Leadville. It sits just above Twin Lakes Reservoir. There are rainbow, brown, cutthroat and lake trout swimming these waters. Forebay is a good lake for a float tube. If you catch a big laker, the fish may take you for a ride.

All lake trout between 22 and 34 inches must be returned to the water immediately. Sucker meat works well for the lake trout. Let it sit one the bottom on a circle hook. Casting lures and Rapalas from shore will catch fish.

The lake is having water pumped up and down from Twin Lakes for the power plant generation. Worms and Power Bait under a bobber will



catch trout. A Woolly Bugger or Pistol Pete behind an air bubble will catch trout. Check the 2014 Colorado Fishing booklet for all rules and regulations.

## Murders in Park County

by Maurice Wells  
photo by Maurice Wells



Lake George Library

On Saturday, June 21 at 2 p.m., local writer Christie Wright will speak at the Lake George Library about her new book, "South Park Perils". In her book she examines historical murders in the Park County area. She will include the deaths of the Italian railroad workers in the Elevenmile

Canyon during the 1800's.

For those who had the opportunity to hear local historian, Steve Plutt, on May 24 discuss the workers at his cemetery talk, this will be an excellent follow-up experience. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library and all are welcome to attend.



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# Kirk's Castile Soap

by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

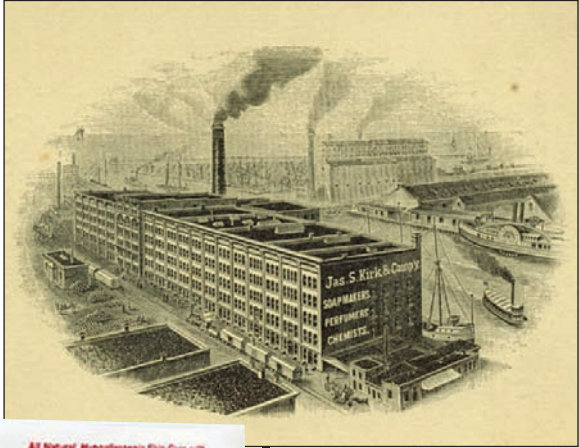
According to the book "Evanston: A Pictorial History," the story of Kirk's Castile Soap began in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1818 with the birth of James Smith Kirk, Alexander C. Kirk's grandfather. His family relocated to Montreal when James was only six months old.

When he graduated from the Montreal Academic Institute, James began to manufacture soap, candles and alkalies. Census records list him as a "candler" or candle maker.

After marrying in 1839, he settled in Utica, New York, and began his soap and perfume factory. He named his now-famous soap

"Kirk's Hard Water Castile Soap," using a secret recipe that created a translucent, all-vegetable bar soap.

The soap "produces a rich lather, especially in hard water, and doesn't leave a soap film when used with hard water." This was the key, as about 80 percent of the water in the United States is plagued by hard water. In 1859, James and his partners (John Thorn and Isaac Maynard) moved their company to Chicago, and Kirk's Castile Soap became a national brand name.



Kirk's Hard Water Castile Soap factory in Utica, NY (above).

nature is the cause of success and the alibi for failure and where no one but myself need suffer from the eventual course of that decline."

He settled in with the Mackin family at the Imperial Hotel, and was amazed to find that instead of dying, his health improved. During the six months that he lived with them, his godson, Steve Mackin, was born and baptized.

Kirk fell in love with Pikes Peak's backcountry, and with his wealth and newfound health he began to make it his own, eventually claiming title to over 28 square miles. He and his former State Department aide, Albert W. Horn, worked closely with Les P. Robush of the Teller Park Conservation District to reinvigorate his alpine pastures. Together, they built 58,195 feet of diversion ditches, 72,781 feet of terraces, and 5,350 drainage ditches. He had his cowboys fill their saddle bags with

# The ambassador that owned Teller County

## "Son of Chicago Soap Millions" Ranches at Pikes Peak

by Celinda Reynolds Kaelin © 2010

Did you ever wonder about the numerous terraces, or undulating ridges, that abound in Teller County? Like ripples in a pond, these earthly ripples were spread by one of the most colorful characters in Teller County's recent history. His story begins in 1946, when Alexander Comstock Kirk came to Cripple Creek to die.

Kirk was the wealthy heir to Kirk's Castile Soap, and chose the shadow of Pikes Peak to end his days and his illustrious career in the United States diplomatic service. In a 1950 interview with the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph, Kirk explained his mindset:

"I do not mind being old, but I have seen too many men of position in the world nursing their health thru crisis when they should give way to the young, the courageous, and I choose to face, and so I choose to face, my decline in a setting where

hardy grass seed from Kenya and spread it as they herded his prized Angus cows. These black bovines are a story in themselves, meriting a full page spread in the Gazette in 1950.

Kirk bought his cattle with his usual flair for excess. He flew to California, and bought a registered Angus bull "Prince Ferndale" and five registered cows for a total of \$360,000 (in 1950 dollars). He then chartered an airplane to fly him and his four-footed retinue back to his Colorado ranch.

One astute pundit noted that this was no doubt the reason "the price of beef is so high!" Within a few years, over 250 pedigreed head wore Kirk's Bar K Reverse K brand. Steve Mackin recalls that Kirk placed his brand on everything, not just his cows. His car, his shirts, his suits — everything sported his mark. As art imitates life, Mackin amusingly noted that Kirk always dressed impeccably in his monogrammed shirts and three-piece, Italian suits. Always. No matter what work he was doing.

I can almost hear the theme song from "Green Acres" as I write this. He almost had a woman more beautiful than Za Za Gabor at his side. He and Marlene Dietrich were passionately in love until mother Clara Comstock Kirk found out. It seems Marlene's affections were no match for the undisclosed financial enticement to "leave her son alone." Kirk remained a bachelor until his death.

Notwithstanding this star-crossed romance, Kirk's journey through life was anything but lonely. He gained the affection and life-long devotion of almost everyone who knew him. Even today, friends post loving messages at his gravesite in Rome.

However, I have still not been able to locate an obituary after his death March 23, 1979 in Tucson, Arizona. This is remarkable for the fact that internet search engines churned up hundreds of newspaper stories on Ambassador Kirk's 31 year career.

Alexander Comstock Kirk began his life on November 26, 1888 in Chicago, Illinois. His sister Margaret was born two years earlier, and was probably named after his father's first wife who also happened to be his mother Clara's sister. No mention is made of his half siblings/ cousins, Roderick, Willing, and Gertrude.

James Alexander Kirk's soap millions allowed



Alexander Comstock Kirk

his son a life of privilege, including degrees from Yale and Harvard. Alexander's World War I draft card registration shows that he had already entered diplomatic service and was working at the Hague, followed by a brief stint in Rome.

His career included a brief stint in Mexico as a foreign service officer, the as U.S. Consul to Spain in 1938, Minister to Egypt and Saudi Arabia from 1941-43, US Ambassador to Greece in 1943, and finally, as Ambassador to Italy from 1944-46. As Charge de Affairs to Russia in 1938, Alexander played host to the Lindberghs at his palatial Spaso House in Moscow. He was posted to Berlin in 1939, and after a meeting with Hitler (whom he described privately as a short, mustache-choked bully) he petitioned to leave Germany.

Even after retirement, Kirk's diplomatic skills were in demand. In 1951, he met with Andrei Gromyko concerning the crisis in Korea.

This eccentric, millionaire rancher from Florissant was on a first name basis with heads of state all over the world, including Charles Lindbergh, Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, and Eisenhower, dictators and royalty. Teller County briefly recognized this citizen of the world, naming Teller County Road #31 "Kirk Road." Unfortunately, this homage became clouded by the dusts of time, and is once again Teller County Road #31.

*Note: These three articles were originally included in the Pikes Peak Historical Society 2010 newsletter and are reprinted with permission.*

# Kirk was one of Marlene Dietrich's top men

The following article is reprinted from the Big Spring (Texas) Daily Herald, 2/24/1948

## Most Fascinating Men

Marlene Dietrich, a gal who gets around, comes up a list of the 10 most fascinating men she knows.

This was no small chore for Marlene, who has known a lot of fascinating men. I mentioned the list to her on the "A Foreign Affair" set, suggesting "The 10 most fascinating Americans." She pondered long and hard.

"How about some of the noted generals?" I suggested.

"Army men are very dull," she answered, "except during a war." I mentioned a few Hollywood actors and got nothing but a scowl. Maybe you could include men you would like to meet."

"I don't want to meet anybody," she answered. Marlene took the matter under advisement and five days later submitted a list, broadened to include men of other nationalities. Two

factors might be pointed out: 1. Only three are native Americans; 2. Only one is an actor. Here's her list, in order of fascination:

- Eric Maria Remarque, novelist.
- Alexander Kirk, former U.S. ambassador to Italy, now a Florissant, Colo. Rancher.
- Igor Stravinsky, composer.
- Ernest Hemingway, author.
- Roberto Rossellini, Italian film director of "Open City" and other films.
- Pablo Picasso, artist.
- Erle Stanley Gardner, mystery writer.
- Salvador Dali, artist.
- Noel Coward, theatrical jack-of-all-trades.
- Arturo Toscanini, conductor.



Marlene Dietrich

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# The Cripple Creek District Museum celebrates 61 years June 14

*Note: (June 14 marks the 61st Anniversary of the opening of The Cripple Creek District Museum on 5th & Bennett Ave. The following is excerpted from an article by former Director Leland Feitz 30 years ago)*

At the turn of the century, when Cripple Creek was a booming gold mining city, the Midland Terminal Railroad depot at the head of Bennett Avenue was one of the busiest places in Colorado. Then, some 18 passenger trains arrived and departed every day. The depot was certainly the gateway to the gold camp and through its doors passed men and women from all over the world, who came to try for their share of Cripple Creek's incredible wealth.

In 1949, after the proud red brick building had served travelers for well over half-a-century, the last passenger train steamed out of Cripple Creek and the old station was boarded up. It stood sadly neglected until 1953. By then, a trickle of tourists had begun to discover Cripple Creek's charm. There were a few forward looking citizens who felt a museum should be established where bits and pieces of the past might be collected, preserved and enjoyed.

The Midland Terminal depot seemed to be an appropriate place for such a collection. The old building was then purchased by Margaret Giddings of Colorado Springs, whose grandfather had struck it rich in the hills above Cripple Creek, and by Blevins Davis, a New Yorker, who had fallen under the spell of the little mining town. The two gave the building to the community and a marvelous transformation took place! Donations of all kinds poured in from old Cripple Creek families and on June 14, 1953 the new Cripple Creek District Museum was officially dedicated by Governor Dan Thornton.

The building with its fascinating architectural features had been handsomely restored. Several rooms were devoted to mining and transportation exhibits. A series of elegant Victorian rooms occupied the third floor. One room was dedicated to former Colorado Governor Ralph Carr, who had roots in Cripple Creek. The hallways were hung with area photographs and rare maps.

More than 44,000 people visited the museum that first year. In 1954, some 60,000 came to see

Cripple Creek's new attraction. Then, before the place was even five years old, attendance passed the 80,000 mark. The Cripple Creek District Museum had become one of the region's most popular attractions and one of the most talked about little museums in all the west.

In 1963, the museum acquired the old Colorado Trading & Transfer Building. One of the most historically important buildings in town, it is the only building now standing on Bennett Avenue to have withstood the great fires of 1896. In the museum complex is the Assay Office, opened in 1974, where a visitor may see exhibits on the geology and history of the area. Board members and staff are either natives or people who have lived in the Cripple Creek District much of their lives. They add to the flavor and interest of a museum visit. The museum has a large library and an extensive collection of photographs and archival materials, which have been used in books, films, and research worldwide.

What of the future? The folks at The Cripple Creek District Museum will hold to the philosophy that has guided its operation from the beginning: to continually preserve and interpret the vital history of The World's Greatest Gold Camp.

## Director's Update:

Since that article 30 years ago, many things have changed, but the history of The World's Greatest Gold Camp remains intact at the



Museum from the front



Midland Depot Train



Belinda Gail

museum. Recent additions include the two historic cabins and the reconstruction of the Bear Caves from the zoo at Pinnacle Park in Jeff Miller Park on the museum grounds, and the ongoing expansion of the museum's programs, new exhibitions, and the acquisition of significant collections from the District. But that's another story, to be continued...

The Cripple Creek District Museum will be holding an Open House on June 14, 2014 at the Trading & Transfer Building on 5th & Bennett Avenue from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (free for members, regular admission for the general public). A benefit performance by Country/Western singer Belinda Gail will be co-hosted by the museum at The Gold Bar Theater in the Imperial Hotel at 2 p.m. Admission for the performance is \$15.00 (\$12.00 members).

All museum buildings are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May 15 to October 15. The main buildings are open weekends only from October 16 to May 14, or by appointment. Admission is \$5.00 Adults; \$3.00 Military/Seniors; Children under 12 Free. Phone: 719-689-9540/719-689-2634; contactus@cripplecreekmuseum.com; www.cripplecreekmuseum.com

# Midland Days 2014: "Tunnels in Time"

by Dave Martinek

The 2014 Midland Days Symposium (our 5th annual event) was possibly the best presentation to date. Thank you again to all who were able to attend. We hope that you enjoyed the day, enjoyed the history that was presented, as well as the enthusiasm that settled on the whole crowd as the day progressed. From my and my fellow presenter's point of view, we had the most fun we could have and we hope it showed. We had a total of 59 in attendance and at the end of the day about 21 toured the Midland Depot at Divide. All but a few stayed to the very end.



Dave Martinek (left), co-founder of Midland Days at Divide, Inc., presents a bust of John Wesley to Kenny Funk, Director of the John Wesley Ranch and Retreat, during the 2014 Midland Days Symposium held on Saturday, May 10. The presentation honors the John Wesley Ranch's support of Midland Days over the last five years. The bust was created by artist Scott Stearnman and was donated for the occasion by Ralph Holloway and the Seven Arrows Gallery in Woodland Park. Photo by Ralph Holloway

We raised a little over \$4000 in needed funds to assist Midland Days to plan for future symposiums and to support the growing depot accounts held by both of our co-sponsors - the Divide Chamber of Commerce and the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition. These funds are used to cover the planning expenses for developing future grant requests to continue the renovation of the Divide depot.

Announced during the symposium was the news that Midland Days at Divide was now a non-profit corporation. We plan to apply for our IRS exemption this year - 501(C)3 - and are now accepting memberships. One member signed up during the symposium, and we welcome others who may want to join. Membership dues are only \$25 per year. You can email midlanddays@yahoo.com to request the membership form. If you are interested in joining, just print out the form, fill it out and mail it with your check to Midland Days, P.O. Box 1088, Divide, CO 80814. You will receive in return mail a replica of a Colorado Midland Railroad Pass as your membership card.

Once again, to all who attended, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Midland Days at Divide, and our co-sponsors, our host (the John Wesley Ranch and Retreat Center), our presenters and volunteers, "THANK YOU" for coming, for your interest and enthusiasm and your generosity. Without you there would be no Midland Days Symposiums and the thread of Midland history we are trying to keep alive would be lost.

You are the key. Thank you!

# Rampart Library News

by Anne Knowles

The best part of summer is the Summer Reading Program at your library! Rampart Library District has three programs that run from June 1 through July 31.

"Fizz, Boom, Read" is for children from ages birth through those entering 5th grade in the fall. They will receive prizes after every four hours of reading (for independent readers) or after every 24 picture books are read to them. The program is finished when 12 hours of reading or 72 picture books have been completed. The final prize is a book.

"Spark a Reaction" is for everyone entering 6th-12th grades in the fall with a prize after every eight hours of reading and the final prize after 24 hours of reading.

"Literary Elements" is for everyone 18 and over and features prizes after three books and six books read. Online registration for all programs is available through the RLD website, <http://rampartlibrarydistrict.org>. The Annual End of Summer Bash, the "Mad

Scientist Party", will be held on Friday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Woodland Park Public Library.

The Summer Reading Program at the Florissant Public Library kicks off Thursday, June 5 when Beth Epley will perform her show "Slime" at 11:30 a.m. StoryTime is every Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. for preschoolers through 5th graders, with themed stories, activities and crafts. Tweens and teens will meet on Thursday afternoons at 1:30. June topics for both groups will be "Bugs", "Body Parts", "Bubbles" and "Bedtime".

Drama Club returns this year with the production of "Cowgirl Cookie and the Mysterious Disappearance of Grandma Sugar." Drama Club meets on Thursday afternoons at Florissant Public Library from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., with play performances scheduled at 6 p.m. on both Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23 at the Florissant Grange.

New this summer is the Video Club for kids aged

10-16 who are more interested in what goes on behind the scenes. Members will learn filming and editing techniques as they record the play rehearsals and production. For more information on these summer activities, call the Florissant Public Library at 748-3939.

There are exciting new resources at Rampart Library District this summer. TumbleBooks are animated, talking electronic picture books for children. They are great for children learning to read with an interactive web site to help them develop a love of reading and attain greater success in school. You may access it from home through a direct link on the RLD website, <http://rampartlibrarydistrict.org>.

Magazines available in electronic format have more than doubled to 113. Just click on the Zinio eMagazine link on the library website to check out your favorite magazines through our subscription.

We look forward to seeing you in the libraries this summer!

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