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December 2016

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Vol. 8, No. 12

Welcome to Ute Country

**"It is good to be children
sometimes, and never
better than at Christmas
when its mighty Founder
was a child Himself."**

— Charles Dickens



PEEK INSIDE...



page
18

Day Trippin' With Karen



page
24

Stack up!



page
33

Antiques, Art and Alcohol



This month's cover is of Avery and James Martin sitting on Santa's lap at Christmas in Divide. The gaze between Santa and James is so breath-taking even Avery patiently waits it out. To see this gaze, is to see the real magic of the holiday season. We would like to thank Santa Don Butzlaff for making Christmas in Divide photos with Santa a success!

We have a magical December issue for you. We have a beautiful poem written by a reader who hasn't penned a poem in over 40 years! Read and enjoy for yourself on page 27. There are many stories of people helping people; people helping animals, and people helping communities. We have reminders of the importance of water both by the Thymekeeper and a brief update from Diana Crow-Wheel. We will learn more from Diana next month. She needs a little time to process the incredible experience of supporting the Water Protectors. Even though we live in the midst of such adversity, it is especially heart-warming to know so many folks are willing to sacrifice in order to make their voices heard. Water is life!

We have a few new photos for Critter Corner. Will you take photos of your indoor or outdoor animal friends? We're happy to print them, just email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or snail mail to POB 753, Divide, CO 80814.

We love to hear from you. Do you have comments, questions, or an article for consideration? Please send to us via email to utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com or snail mail to POB 753, Divide, CO 80814.

Happy Holiday Season and Happy New Year to ALL, from *Ute Country News!*

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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First Class subscriptions are available for \$36 for 13 issues.



The Thymekeeper Water is life

by Mari Marques Worden

During this giving season, I recall the greatest gifts I ever received from my herb teachers were the lessons of mindfulness and gratitude. Mindfulness and gratitude go hand in hand. One inevitably leads to the other. To think and feel deeply in the understanding of how our actions or inaction affect other people, as well as all living beings on this planet is mindfulness. Once this is understood, the connection between ourselves and Nature become apparent.

So deeply ingrained into our psyche was this lesson that we found every outing in Nature to be an experience in gratitude. We gave thanks to the trees for giving us oxygen and medicine. We gave thanks to the plants for giving us food and medicine. We gave thanks to everything from the pollinators to the minute organisms living in the soil that help our food and medicine to grow.

Most of all, we gave thanks to the waters that sustain us all.

Water is life. It's one of the first vital things we come to know as human beings in the womb.

As an herbalist, I am a steward of the Earth. My deep and undying love for this planet has instilled in me a great sense of responsibility to the sustainability of our Mother Earth and her natural resources. Much like the Native Americans, who are also herbalists, we understand the importance of clean water for every living being on this planet. The importance of clean water for our continued existence is vital and not to be underestimated.

I'd like to turn our attention toward the water at this time.

I remember an incident back in the early '80's on a hot summer day at the flea market. You could literally see the waves of heat rising up off the black asphalt. Back then we didn't have the option of bottled water and knowing full well that a fountain soda would not quench my thirst I blurted out the words, "I bet if I set up a table right here I could sell ice water for a buck a cup and probably get rich." This very statement earned me a badge that day. Everyone around me looked as if I said something so unbelievable that it hurt their ears and they were suddenly concerned about my mental state. Sell WATER? Unheard of, no one will pay you for a cup of water. Period. Utter nonsense. My, how times have changed. Suffice to say if I'd taken the idea and ran with it, I probably wouldn't be here writing this.

What seemed ludicrous to everyone around me, seemed perfectly realistic to me. There has always been this inherent knowing inside of me that water is the most precious gift the Earth has given us. This was reaffirmed during a day long trip in the Sedona desert many years later with herb school. I found that it's nearly impossible to carry enough water on your person to spend several hours in the hot desert sun. At least that was mine and a dozen other herbalists experience that day. I'm pretty sure this was part of the lesson plan.

In most areas of the United States it is taken for granted that you can simply turn on the tap and expect clean clear water to pour forth in abundance. We use water for everything from washing our face to flushing our toilet and cleaning our houses. Americans water their lawns, wash their cars, shower on a daily basis without a second thought given to where that water came from, how much is being used, or where it's going to. I call this mindlessness. We as humans tend to fall into this state on a regular basis as long as nothing comes along to disrupt our flow, so to speak.

It's only when something so vitally important becomes unavailable or undrinkable that we stand up and say hey! What happened? When it's too late.

Water security?

For some people, security is found in the fact that almost everywhere you go there is bottled water for sale. Cases and cases line the grocery store shelves. From convenience stores to big box stores, bottled water is everywhere.

Here are a few facts regarding bottled water that one should be mindful of:

1. The production of water bottles uses 17 million barrels of oil a year, and it takes three times the water to make the bottle as it does to fill it; and that doesn't account for the transportation and disposal.
2. The U.S. drank 9 billion bottles of water in 2008, at an average of 30 gallons per person.

(More than milk and beer, believe it or not.)

3. Tap water is approximately 560 times cheaper than bottled water and a lot of that bottled water admittedly comes from a tap. The bottling companies are basically selling convenience and have had to admit in many instances their water comes from a public water source. When you see PWS on the label that's what it means, there is nothing special about the water.
4. Tap water is regulated by the EPA for contaminants, bottled water is not. Despite the bad rap that tap water got from the bottled water industry, scientific testing proved bottled was no safer than tap, depending on where you live of course. The residents of Flint Michigan would not agree.
5. Of the 30 billion plastic water bottles sold in the United States in 2005, only 12 percent were recycled. According to Doug James, a professor of computer science at Cornell University and a recycling advocate, that left 25 billion bottles "landfilled, littered or incinerated."
6. Recycled plastic bottles can only be re-used in non-food products.
7. In reality, there is no way for bottled water to be as environmentally responsible as tap water.

Currently water is becoming the topic of discussion all over the world. These days many people are experiencing water issues for one reason or another. Whether it be drought or contamination, people are starting to wake up to the truth that clean water can no longer be taken for granted. In fact, many are waking to the truth that water should be protected. Our brave brothers and sisters across this nation who stand in protest of pipelines deserve our utmost respect and gratitude at this time. They truly are Water Protectors, and as we all know, pipelines leak. If you've ever spilled oil on the Earth or in the ocean you know it can't be thoroughly cleaned up.

Where has all the moisture gone?

As I sit here in the third week of November wondering where the moisture is, I turn my thoughts to the spring flowers; the many plants and herbs that won't be growing due to lack of moisture. Although many commuters are happy with no snow, the impacts will be far reaching for the Nature lovers and the wildlife in the area.

It seems the Earth is changing. There is either too much water with unprecedented flooding in some places or too little elsewhere.

Seventy percent of the water in the U.S. is used for farming. Consider that most of our food is grown in California where the land is



considered desert. If anything has changed the lay of the land in this country it's farming and agriculture.

The Ogallala aquifer lies underneath eight states and is estimated to be the size of nine Lake Eries. Per the documentary titled *Watermark*, as of 2013 we have already used two out of three of those lakes. This is not only because of replenishment issues but also because we, in America, are using more water than we ever have before. Parts of this aquifer are in a rapid state of decline. Perhaps it's time to rethink our processes when it comes to water use. We can all start on a small scale by using water filters and re-usable drinking containers as opposed to bottled water.

Other ways to conserve water include:

- Taking shorter showers
- Not filling the sink up all the way when washing dishes
- Saving the rinse water to be used as gray water
- Don't leave the water running unnecessarily for example when brushing your teeth
- Capture the water that runs while waiting for the hot water to be heated
- Re-use your gray water for watering plants, flushing toilets, and many other uses
- Fix your leaky faucets or toilets
- Clean your sidewalks and driveways with a broom, not the hose (or use gray water)
- Run the washing machine and dishwasher only when you have a full load

Now seems like a good time to start. No matter what holiday you celebrate in December, I encourage everyone this giving season to practice mindfulness and gratitude; perhaps a New Year's resolution to be more mindful. I don't care who you are, you have an impact on others and if you are struggling with what to give this season, I have a suggestion: give thanks. From the bottom of your heart, give thanks.

Mari Marques is a Certified Herbalist and owner of The Thymekeeper. For questions or more information contact: Mari@mugsys-pad@aol.com or 719-439-7303. Mari is available for private consultation or private classes.

Upcoming Thymekeeper Events

Spice up your holidays! Let's get together and make some mulling spice bags for your holiday cider or other holiday recipes. We'll talk about some different uses and medicinal benefits of the age old tradition of using spice bags. We'll also have mulled wine and juice on hand for tasting. These spice bags make awesome inexpensive holiday gifts in addition to making the whole house smell seasonally delicious. The Thymekeeper will be available on Sunday, December 4th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to help put yours together. Suggested donation is \$10 per person. Spices will be available for purchase. The Thymekeeper is located at 1870 County Road 31 Florissant, CO.



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Spinney Once a town

by Linda Bjorklund

Five brothers and one sister of the Spinney family came to Colorado in the 1870s and homesteaded a large ranch that extended about five miles along the South Platte River. Benjamin Spinney was the primary family member, and his sister Viola was married to Jerome Harrington whose ranch was established upstream from the Spinney holdings.

One of their first endeavors was the Spinney & Harrington sawmill, into which they put a shingle and lath mill in 1879.

In 1882, Benjamin became the sole owner of the ranch after he bought out the interests of his brothers, who mostly lived in Colorado Springs. That year Benjamin hired surveyors to lay out boundaries for an irrigating ditch, which would allow him to grow several hundred acres of hay. On his ranch a herd of some six or seven hundred head of sheep were located.

In 1884, Spinney announced that he had disposed of his entire flock of sheep making a good profit off the deal. He did not consider sheep, however, to be a preferable investment to cattle.

In 1885 Benjamin's brother Anson B. Spinney, a medical doctor, came to the Spinney Ranch and purchased a half interest in it. The brothers planned to make a trip to Texas to buy cattle for the Ranch.

Ranchers frequently were caught in differences between cattle and sheep, some battles ensuing over use of the ranges. But in 1899 an agreement was reached wherein boundaries were established between sheep and cattle ranges, which seemed to settle the arguments.

Meanwhile, the Colorado Midland Railroad was built in 1886, extending from Colorado Springs, through the Spinney Ranch, over Trout Creek Pass, into Buena Vista, then on to Leadville and points west. The Denver, South Park and Pacific had established a narrow-gauge railroad from Denver to the mining communities and Leadville in 1879, but the Midland used standard gauge tracks, which the owners thought would be more likely to extend beyond state borders and connect to other railroads, like the Rio Grande.

The Midland tracks went through several railroad tunnels as they passed through the valley that would eventually become the Eleven Mile Reservoir. One of the features of the Midland was called the Wildflower Excursion train. On a Sunday afternoon travelers could take the train from Colorado Springs, through the tunnels, and stop at a station called Idlewild. At that particular stop the wildflowers were abundant and ladies in their long dresses could step off the train and pick armloads of the colorful bouquets. Photographers were on hand to take their pictures.

The passengers would get back on the train, which then went to the Spinney station, where the railroad had built a wye so the train could turn around and head back to the Springs.

On October 25, 1888, the *Fairplay Flume* reported that there had been an "Accident on the Midland" the previous Friday, at the Platte River bridge about seven miles west of Spinney. The east-bound express, consisting of a baggage car, a day coach and two sleepers, was approaching the bridge when the engineer spotted a cow lying on the track. Before he could react to stop the train, the engine passed over the cow, but when one of the sleeper cars struck it, the rails split and the train was pulled onto the bridge over the ties. The first sleeper

car went into the ditch and the second sleeper car went down into the river.

The passengers, many of whom were about to retire for the night, were shaken up. Some were injured, but none seriously. The Traffic Manager, who was following the train in his own special, was right behind. After he saw that the passengers were all extricated and their injuries looked at, he served them coffee and brandy from his private car. A telegram was immediately sent to Colorado Springs to request a car to be sent to the scene to transport the passengers back home. While they were waiting for rescue, the passengers were warmed by a campfire.

In July of 1890, the *Flume* reported that Benjamin Spinney had gotten himself into trouble. He had bargained with a young Texas cowboy to purchase a herd of Texas cattle. Benjamin paid a small down payment, but for some reason refused to pay the balance of the \$2,000 they had agreed upon.

The young Texan, whose name was later revealed to be Joe Harris, was determined to get the money owed him. He showed up at a field at the Harrington Ranch, where Benjamin was working. Armed with a revolver, Harris walked Spinney to the Harrington house, where he told Benjamin's brother-in-law that the two of them were going on a camping trip. If the money appeared in the bank by a certain date, Benjamin would be returned home. If not, neither he nor his body would ever be seen again.

Although the Harringtons argued about whether Ben was worth the money, they eventually paid it. The "camping trip" turned out to be some 75 miles distant near the town of Meeker in western Colorado. When Harris learned from his brother that the money was in the bank, he released Ben. After Benjamin returned from his harrowing experience, he told his family that they had subsisted on oatmeal and dried grapes and slept on the ground every night. He had been gone 21 days.

Back in Meeker, Joe Harris was arrested and charged with kidnapping. He apparently tried to escape from jail, but was caught before he could get away. He was sent back to Park County, where the locals here treated the case with some amusement. The Judge remarked that he was thinking of making Harris the chief collector for his agency. The last report was that Spinney's friends did not know if he intended to prosecute his captor.

In 1892 Dr. Anson B. Spinney quit-claimed his interest in the Spinney Ranch back to his brother Benjamin, along with five irrigating ditches and decrees for 648 cubic feet of water.

Two years later the mining settlement at Balfour promised to be so successful that the train stations at Spinney and Hartsel began competing over the Balfour travel. Benjamin Spinney planned to lay out a townsite and build a hotel to accommodate what he thought would be a coming boom of travelers.

A plat for the town of Spinney was filed with the county on March 21, 1894. The town was to be located on the opposite side of the South Platte River from the Spinney Ranch, a few miles away. A two-and-a-half



B. F. Spinney from "Portrait & Biographical Record of the State of Colorado".

story hotel was built, as well as a grocery and general merchandise house.

A new Concord stagecoach was purchased to be used on the Balfour-Spinney stage line and it was christened by taking a party of ladies and gentlemen from Spinney to Balfour, driven by R. R. Spinney, one of the other Spinney brothers.

Town lots were held out for sale. A barber shop and meat market were planned for the town. A saloon was also to be built.

In May of 1901, the *Flume* reported that the County Sheriff had gotten a rush telegram from Spinney to come at once, that there was all kinds of trouble there. The sheriff immediately got on the first train out. When he arrived at the Spinney station, he found that the wife of the agent there had taken the entire savings of the family and bought a new 'sky piece' leaving her husband with very little in the way of sustenance. The sheriff heard the evidence and found in favor of the lady, who said she had not had a new hat for 10 years. The sheriff got back on the train and went home, confident that justice had been served.

Dr. Anson Spinney, who had taken up residence in Colorado Springs, passed away in 1902.

Benjamin Spinney passed away in 1908. The *Flume* reported on April 5, 1907, that "It is understood that the same company which has an option on the Hartsel property is also likely to purchase the Harrington and Spinney ranches. Should this deal be consummated, it will be by far the largest ranch deal made in this part of Colorado."

The federal government decreed in 1918 that there was to be only one railroad line and the others, including the Colorado Midland, were to disband and remove all their trackage. This was also the demise of many of the towns along the railroad lines, including the town of Spinney. Since the railroad owned the property, the owners opted to burn all the buildings down in order to avoid paying the taxes on them.

There is nothing left of Spinney, the town, but in 1979 the City of Aurora purchased 5,300 acres of land to construct the Spinney Mountain Reservoir which would provide a water storage facility to meet their projected water system demands.

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Time for a year-end investment review

With the holiday season upon us, you may well be busier than usual. However, by spending a few minutes reviewing your investment scenario of this past year, you can see where you've been, where you might be going, and what you need to do to keep moving forward toward your long-term financial goals.

So, as you look back at 2016, pay close attention to these elements of your investment picture:

Performance

Reviewing your investment performance over time is important in helping you determine if you're on track to achieve your financial goals. So, in evaluating how your investments did in 2016, ask yourself some key questions: How did your investments do relative to their performance in past years? If there was a big difference, what might have accounted for it? Were your returns relevant to your long-term goals? In other words, if you have already established a return rate you'll need to reach your goals—and you should indeed set such a rate—were your actual returns “on track” to help you make progress toward your objectives? Just as importantly, were your return expectations realistic, based on your investment mix and the market environment?

Investment mix

If you are a diligent investor following a well-designed strategy, you probably started out in 2016 with an investment mix that reflects your risk tolerance, time horizon, and short- and long-term goals. But over time, your investment mix can change, even without your having done so on purpose. If you owned a certain percentage of an asset, such as growth stocks, and those stocks appreciated in price substantially, they could take up a larger percentage of your portfolio than you had intended, thereby exposing you to a higher risk level than that with which you are comfortable. So now that the year is coming to a close, examine your investment mix to see if it needs “rebalancing.”

401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan? Specifically, if you got a raise this past year, did you boost your contributions to your plan? The more you invest now, and throughout your working life, the less likely it will be that you have to play “catch up” in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

The more you invest now, and throughout your working life, the less likely it will be that you have to play “catch up” in the years immediately preceding your retirement.

Mistakes

We all make mistakes in every walk of life—including the way we invest. In looking back over 2016, can you spot some investment mistakes you might have made? Did you temporarily “bail out” on investing immediately after the “Brexit” vote, only to find, a few weeks later, that the markets had soared to record highs? Did you act on impulse and buy a so-called “hot” stock that turned out to be inappropriate for your needs and risk level? While mistakes like these might be costly in the short term, they can ultimately prove invaluable—if you learn from them.

We're just about ready to turn the page on the 2016 calendar. So, as you review your investment decisions for the past year, try to determine what worked, what didn't, and what you can do to improve your results in 2017.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by Paula Hunt, your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Contribution levels

Are you taking full advantage of your



What's on your bookshelf?

by Polly Roberts

One might think that my home is full of books, stacked on every available surface, piled in every corner. But I'm not a “stuff” person—everything I own and treasure could fit into the back of a pickup truck. (My husband, however, is another story; moving his possessions requires a large moving van). What books I do own are much more to me than the pages and printed words—they are memories. On my bookshelf are reminders of times past, of people and events in my life that I can't, and won't, let go.

I have my grandmother's well-worn and stained 1950 edition of the *Betty Crocker Picture Cook Book*. It brings back memories of standing next to her in her kitchen watching her magically whip together flour, sugar, and butter without the use of measuring cups or spoons to create a heavenly berry cobbler or pie. The memory is so strong that I can almost smell what's baking in her oven.

Next to it on my bookshelf is a copy of the *Centennial (1907-2007) Faygo® Sodapop Recipe Book*. I was a board member of a professional landscape group in Michigan and at one of our more contentious meetings, a member of the group suddenly burst into song with the lyrics from the Faygo® Redpop commercial from our youth. We laughed until we couldn't breathe. The recipe book was a parting gift from my landscape friends when I re-located back to Colorado.

There is a copy of Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker's autobiography on my bookshelf. My father was an antique car enthusiast and his 1925 Rickenbacker 4-door Brougham was his baby. When there was a car show coming up, all four kids were each assigned a wheel and we would diligently polish the wood spokes

under my father's watchful eye.

I have the entire *Little House on the Prairie* series, the original copies that I received when I was a child. I actually re-read those now and then, curled up with a blanket just like I did many years ago when I needed to escape to my bedroom away from my crazy brothers and sister.

I also have the entire *Harry Potter* series, as do both of my sons who were huge fans. There was no getting away from buying three copies of the book; one for each of us. I refused to stay up to purchase the new book when it was first released at midnight, but I was willing to get up early to drive to the store to buy three copies and lots of snacks. One of my sons would start reading the new book aloud on the drive home, then everyone settled in to read on their own. It was an event at our house—we read all day.

The books that belong to my husband are mostly hockey-themed, *One Hundred Years of Hockey, Nineteen: A Salute to Steve Yzerman*, 99: *My Life in Pictures: Wayne Gretzky*, and the like. There is also a copy of *Hockey for Dummies* that I purchased when we first started dating. I can recall him telling me early on in our relationship about how he first came to love hockey, standing in front of the garage door at his childhood home in Detroit while his older brothers hurled hockey pucks at him. He played recreational hockey for almost 40 years as, no surprise, a goalie.

Sometimes it is not the contents of a book that touches us, but what a book represents. My bookshelf holds the past; it is the scrapbook of my life.

What's on your bookshelf?

A Guffey Christmas

by Flip Boettcher
photos by Flip Boettcher

If you are looking for something to do for the holidays, Christmas in Guffey could be just the thing. Strictly Guffey and The Bakery at Strictly Guffey, both housed in one building located just south of the Guffey School on Main Street, will be having an Open House on Sunday, Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Local artists will be giving demonstrations throughout the day and there will be discounts offered in the gift shop, Strictly Guffey, which features only local Guffey artists.

The Bakery will be featuring holiday dessert specials as well as samples, hot chocolate and cider, according to owner Dana Peters. At 4 p.m. there will be a community tree lighting and caroling. The tree is a live tree located between Strictly Guffey and the school. The tree will be decorated with lights and ornaments made by the school students. Strictly Guffey and The Bakery are open Wednesday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for breakfast and lunch.

On Dec. 5, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Freshwater Saloon, located on the south side of Guffey on 8th Street, will be having a tree lighting as well with ornament making,



Strictly Guffey owner Dana Peters in her old shop before moving to her new location on Main Street.



Dana Peters on the right with Donavon Johnson in front of Strictly Guffey and The Bakery on Main Street.

tree decorating and lighting, according to Freshwater so-owner Betty Cain. The Freshwater is open Wednesday through Sunday.

The Rolling Thunder Cloud Café, located on Canon Street which parallels Main Street, features an artisan's gallery for gift shopping as well as their smoked meat specialties and Wayne's famous pies. Wayne and Geordi Walston are owners of the Café. Café hours are Saturday through Wednesday from 8

a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also in Guffey is the Bull Moose Restaurant and Bar, located on Canon Street and 8th Street, across from the Freshwater. The Bull Moose has gourmet meals, a full bar and live entertainment. Fall hours are: Friday open at 5 p.m., Saturday open 11 a.m., Sunday open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Monday open at 5 p.m. Call 719-689-4199 or visit their website www.thebullmooseinguffey.com.

Strictly Guffey offers classes and workshops, too. The December classes will feature: Introduction to Silver Jewelry on Dec. 4, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Coloring on Fabric on Dec. 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Setting Stones in Silver Jewelry on Dec. 18, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Contact the shop for more information: 719-286-8589 or strictlyguffey@gmail.com.

“Join us for the fun and get your gift shopping done in Guffey at the Open House,” said Peters.

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Water is Life

Water Protectors continue to stand strong

by Kathy Hansen
photos by Diana Crow-Wheel



Peaceful protesters on the line.

Diana Crow-Wheel was willing to travel to North Dakota to support the Water Protectors on November 20, 2016. She provides a brief update on the Dakota Access Pipeline, which is intended to cross under the Missouri River twice and Mississippi twice posing a threat to Mother Earth's water supply. Look for our update next month. The Water Protectors peacefully protest to protect the water and to uphold their rights to the land, even though imminent domain has already been declared.

The Water Protectors peacefully protest in frigid conditions. Makeshift shelters, tipis, and yurts offer a break from the never-ending wind. The only source of heat is bon fires. All food must be brought in. They sacrifice comforts of home to stand united in greater numbers so their voice cannot be denied.

If you cannot go there in person, you can still help. Conserve water. Contact your representatives and let them know you can live six minutes without air and only three days without water. Say a prayer for the Water Protectors and for Mother Earth. Drop a donation at One Nation Walking Together 3150 N. Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80907 Tuesdays through Fridays.

The message is simple: water is life!



This sign says it all.



A yurt is like living in the lap of luxury...



... compared to makeshift tarp dwellings that can be the only respite from the North Dakota November wind



WPHS Robotics Team wins 3rd Place

Woodland Park High School's Robotics Team recently participated in the BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) Robotics Competition where they were awarded 3rd place out of 19 teams; just one slot from qualifying for Regionals.

The theme of the competition was "Bet the Farm" and featured an Agribusiness model of competition. It was held at Englewood High School.

"Our team worked in class as well as every Saturday for six weeks to build their robot," said Gary Adamson, WPHS teacher and robotics coach. "We had over 36 members show up to the competition on Game Day." Also coached by Armando Quintana, WPHS Robotics team was sponsored by BELFOR Property Restoration out of Colorado Springs and HDAero Engineering based in Woodland Park.

"We would like to extend a huge thanks to BELFOR Property Restoration and HDAero Engineering for their contributions as it really helped in supporting our team," Adamson added. "We are planning to compete



in the SkillsUSA Robotics Urban Rescue Challenge this spring which will be held in late February at Pikes Peak Community College."

Next year the Colorado Springs Metro Area is going to set up their own hub and volunteers are needed to help the BEST Robotics organization organize the competition. WPHS Robotics team is also looking for mentors to help in its activities. If interested in being a mentor or sponsoring the team in their next robotics competition, please contact Gary Adamson, gadamson@wpskd12.org or 719-686-2144.

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A Mountain Seed: Listen

by Jessica Kerr

The morning is quiet; the bright landscape lies under a hushed silence. Sunlight dances in bright beams off of the glowing snow, thick upon the ground. Snow-clad fir trees, most finely dressed and gargantuan in height, tower above the icy streets. Houses line the road, silent too, except for the warm light smiling from small windows.

Chimneys puff smoke into the frozen air. The breeze blows frosty crystals off of the branches of trees and sets them into a dance. Suddenly, a branch gives way and the powder falls to the ground, thumping softly. The branch bobs up and down, shaking off the last remnants of frost. It stands out stark green against its snow covered brothers.

My feet sink into the soft powder. As I step, the zig-zag soles of my boots leave impressions and the snow crunches softly. The antique sleigh bells I’ve tied to my boots jingle softly. Exhaling, my lungs push warm air into the chilled atmosphere. It hangs in front of my nose for a moment before disappearing.

Frolicking by my side, Ryley pulls and tugs on his leash, leaping to and fro friskily, disturbing the fresh snow. He is a full-blood border collie, the color of rich chocolate, and

full of energy. He leaps, he bounds, and he pauses — front legs on the ground, tail in the air, wagging slightly. The snow on his face gives him a mask like a robber; his whiskers quiver and he looks me intently in the eye. A small woof and he bounds off again.

From down the alley children’s voices shout and giggle. They, too, are wearing snow boots, warm coats, and brightly colored hats and gloves. A handful of children and their parents pass us on the sidewalk. They look down and point: Ryley’s feet prance in the snow, partially because of the powder, but mostly because of the vibrant red shoes he is wearing.

“Look, mom! He’s got shoes like a sled dog!” a child shrieks in delight.

The child’s father chuckles. “He’s even prancing for you!”

Yes, my dog is wearing snow boots. They prevent frostbite and frowns.

It must be 20 degrees outside, but even so, I am warm because of my thick hat and my boots that jingle. Suddenly, a sharp skirling noise bursts from across the street. Ryley wheels around to look, and so do I. At the small yarn and gift shop, a man stands holding a bagpipe:

tartan, kilt and all. We stand for a few seconds, listening and observing. Ryley quickly loses interest, and resumes sniffing at the ground, ears pinned back in annoyance at the highland music. I, however, pause and listen. I love bagpipes.

We walk on. Even further down the street more people mill about, crossing the road and going from building to building, brightly dressed and cheerfully talking. I keep on walking with Ryley by my side, taking him out for his mid-morning bathroom break. Later, I plan on joining the gawkers and the shoppers, the cheery and the jovial.

It is the day of the Christmas Opening.

On this day, the first Saturday in December, shops open and entice chilled visitors with the inviting warmth of their offices, hot apple cider and cocoa, and special chocolate candies. One building is set aside, filled with twinkling Christmas trees. Bright orange strips of paper



are sold by the forest service, eager to be wrapped around the trunk of a wild Christmas tree. Musicians play on the street corners and people everywhere can be heard laughing. When it gets dark, illuminated floats are pulled down Main Street and the clopping of hooves echo around the old buildings.

After Ryley’s walk, we go inside. I undo his harness and remove his red boots. Pulling my fingers from their warm gloves, I dry his snow-drenched fur with an old green towel. Quickly, I run upstairs and grab my wallet, pull my gloves back on, and rush out the door. Closing the garden gate, I glance at the living room window and I can see the white stripe on Ryley’s face, his nose pressed up against the glass, fogging it. If only I could take him everywhere with me.

Everything important we have to learn for ourselves: love, hope, kindness, generosity, faith, peace, joy... no one else can teach it to us; we have to catch it for ourselves.

As I walk, I can hear the bagpipe birl and drone. Snow crunches crisply below my feet. Jangling, the bells on my boots sway to the rhythm of my stride. With friends, I skate and slip on the ice-covered street and we tumble together into a small, cozy bookstore where we will search for the perfect gift.

Something I hadn’t fully realized then was how much of a gift we already had. Bill Keane, the man who is responsible for the funny *Family Circle* cartoons, has said it well: “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift from God; that is why we call it the present.”

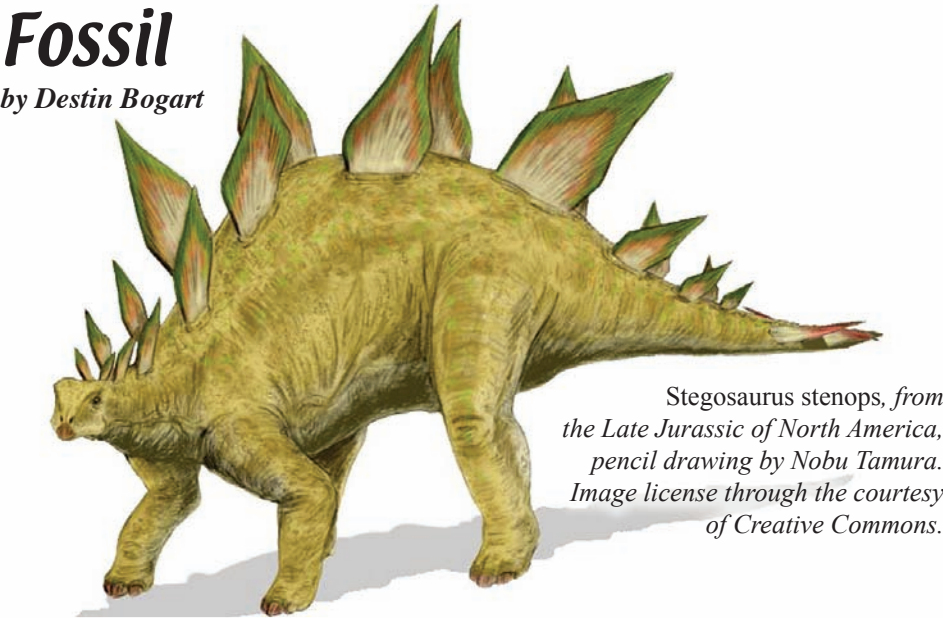
It is a true gift to the soul, being raised in the most beautiful part of God’s creation... surrounded by soaring peaks, towering trees, and swirling snow.

We can all simply know things. Ideas and opinions can be given to us and we can know them in our head, but it is only after experience that we can truly have a sense of knowing in our hearts. It is one thing to simply know, another to understand. It must become a part of who we are. Everything important we have to learn for ourselves: love, hope, kindness, generosity, faith, peace, joy... no one else can teach it to us; we have to catch it for ourselves.

This time of year we are pressed to look only at the surface. So in this time of year, when so much grabs for our attention, remember one thing: we are also coaxed to believe the unbelievable. This season of hope, I urge you to think about those important things. Forget the lights, the sounds, the gifts, and yes, even the snow which we wait for so eagerly. Forget all of that. Focus on the inside, on the things you have yet to learn with your heart. Focus on finding the unbelievable. Take advantage of the silence snow provides to listen. The silence is there if you are willing to see it. Let your heart listen this Christmas — for who you are meant to be.

Stegosaurus: Colorado’s State Fossil

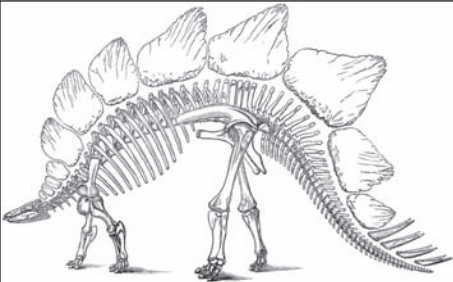
by Destin Bogart



Stegosaurus stenops, from the Late Jurassic of North America, pencil drawing by Nobu Tamura. Image license through the courtesy of Creative Commons.

As the state dinosaur of Colorado and one of the most iconic members of Dinosauria, *Stegosaurus* has earned this spot due to its fascinating history and its large number of fossil remains that allow paleontologists to understand more about *Stegosaurus* than other dinosaur genera that have a more fragmentary fossil record.

The first remains of *Stegosaurus* were uncovered during a period in the late 1870s known as, “The Bone Wars,” which intensified the collection efforts between two rival paleontologists — Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope. Marsh initially discovered *Stegosaurus* in 1877 near Morrison, Colorado. Marsh first thought those remains belonged to a turtle-like animal, but soon revised this finding as more *Stegosaurus* fossils were unearthed.



O.C. Marsh’s 1891 illustration of *Stegosaurus unguatus*. Paleontologists now place the arrangement of the back plates in two alternating rows and oriented vertically.

The largest *Stegosaurus* could stand four meters (12 feet) high at the tallest back plate and could reach lengths of up to nine meters (~30 feet). But the size alone is not what sets *Stegosaurus* apart from the other animals it shared its ecosystem with; rather the plates that line the spine of *Stegosaurus* make this dinosaur recognizable to everyone. Yet the plates remain an enigma; paleontologists have put forth many theories regarding how the plates are positioned. When Othniel Marsh first found the remains, he thought the plates lay flat against the body like the armor of a Pangolin (looks like a scaly anteater). Through the years, paleontologists have refined the theory regarding the exact configuration of these plates, which went from two lines of identical plates on the back, to one row of plates that alternate. Scientists now place the arrangement of the back plates in two alternating rows and oriented vertically.

What these plates were used for is still up for debate and has remained so since the animal’s discovery. Robert Bakker, a world-renowned paleontologist and curator of the Houston Museum of Nature and Science, speculates the plates of *Stegosaurus* were the inside, or core, of a bigger plate made of keratinous material. Bakker also suggests these plates were semi-movable and the animal used them as a defense, splaying them out to the sides to deter predators from coming too close. Other scientists have claimed the back plates were used to attract a mate or to control body temperature.

Even if the plates of *Stegosaurus* were not used for defense, *Stegosaurus* carried with it four spike-like osteoderms (bone embedded in the skin) on the end of its tail. These spikes (informally called thagomizers) bent out to the sides and backward and were likely an incredible defense against many large predators of the Morrison Formation.

In 2014, Robert Bakker found a large open hole in the lower-front portion of the pelvis of a mounted *Allosaurus* skeleton at the Glenrock Paleontological Museum. The hole fits the tail spike of a *Stegosaurus*. This is evidence of just how formidable the tail of a *Stegosaurus* was as a defensive weapon when it struck

the crotch of an *Allosaurus*. Evidence suggests bacteria, broken bone, and other debris remained in the wound, causing an infection that eventually killed the animal. According to Robert Bakker, “A massive infection ate away a baseball-sized sector of the bone, probably this infection spread upwards into the soft tissue attached here, the thigh muscles and adjacent intestines and reproductive organs.”

The brain of *Stegosaurus*, although not quite walnut-sized, was unusually small compared to its body mass. So far, *Stegosaurus* claims the smallest brain size to body mass of any other dinosaur. This small brain presented a problem — how could it survive without more intelligence? It seems the large plates on its back and the spikes of its thagomizer were keys to its survival against predators. Also, *Stegosaurus* behavior played a role. Paleontologist Matthew Mossbrucker discovered in 2007, footprints of adult, juvenile, and hatchling specimens in the Morrison Formation that suggest *Stegosaurus* stayed together in small groups, most likely for protection against predators.

Stegosaurus is the rhinoceros of the Late Jurassic as it was both an herbivore and highly dangerous to anything it perceived as a threat. *Stegosaurus* died out near the end of the Jurassic, leaving only fossils and footprints as a reminder of its existence. However, paleontologists can, using fossils and a little bit of educated guesswork, begin to understand how this animal behaved, how it lived, and how it died.

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Author’s Bio

Destin Bogart is 16 years old and ever since he can remember he has had a passion for paleontology. He is an Earth Science Scholar with the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and is a junior IB World Student at Pueblo West High School. Destin is planning a career in vertebrate paleobiology.




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AmeriCorps serves Habitat's Clock Tower

A team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) members is serving with Habitat for Humanity of Teller County to renovate an old hotel into nine, affordable housing condos for local families. The group of 11 young adults arrived on November 4th and will be serving in Woodland Park through December 16th.

While in town, the AmeriCorps NCCC team is assisting Habitat for Humanity of Teller County, whose mission is to bring people together to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that provides their new homeowners with no or low interest financing. Their commitment to building decent, stable housing provides homeowners with stability, dignity, health and safety, and increases educational and job prospects.

Over the course of this six-week project, this AmeriCorps NCCC team will be involved in various aspects of home renovation at Habitat's Clock Tower Condos build site at 222 E. Henrietta Ave in Woodland Park, Colorado, including dry walling, painting, flooring, interior trim work, setting doors, setting cabinets, siding, and landscaping, for the nine units for local families.

"Habitat applied for a team to facilitate a concerted effort to get the project done as soon as possible to get families in their homes," said Violet Hanratty, Habitat for Humanity of Teller County's Volunteer Coordinator.

"When many question what the youth of today are doing for America, I get to see it firsthand everyday through the actions of AmeriCorps NCCC! I experience these hard-working young people giving of their hearts, hands, & their voices to make a better place to live for their fellow human beings. They have come from every corner of America to our little community to give nine families a very special place to call HOME," said Jamie Caperton, Habitat's executive director.

The AmeriCorps team also participated in Habitat's Colorado Gives Day campaign rally at the Clock Tower Condos project on Tuesday, November 29th. Colorado Gives Day is a one-day online fundraising campaign taking place throughout Colorado on Tuesday, December 2nd, encouraging Colorado residents to give where they live during the year-end, holiday season.

The November 29th rally, was held in conjunction with the nationwide Giving Tuesday celebration and was led by Habitat's executive director, Jamie Caperton and Woodland Park's Mayor, Neil Levy.

AmeriCorps NCCC first served with Habitat for Humanity of Teller County in 2015. Since then, two teams previously served more than 6,000 hours with the organization.

While here they will also volunteer their time with many other worthwhile non-profit organizations in the Woodland Park community including the Lighter Side of Christmas Parade, Holiday Home Tour, and others. "When you see them, please thank them for their generous service to our community," said Caperton.

This is the first of several projects to be completed by this AmeriCorps NCCC team. They began their term of service on October 11, 2016 with three weeks of training at the Denver regional hub. After December 17th, they will travel to a series of other six- to 12-week projects in communities throughout the Central and Southwestern United States. They will graduate from the 10-month program on July 14, 2017.

AmeriCorps NCCC is a full-time, residential, national service program in which up to 2,200 young adults serve nationwide annually. During their 10-month term, Corps Members – all 18 to 24 years old – work on teams of eight to 12 on projects that address critical needs. Traditional NCCC members work on a variety of different six- to 12-week-long projects related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, energy conservation, and urban and rural development. Members of FEMA Corps, a branch of NCCC, focus their projects exclusively on emergency management work in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Southwest Region campus in Denver is one of five regional hubs in the nation and serves eight states in the central and southwest parts of the country. The other campuses are located in Baltimore, Md., Vinton, Iowa, Vicksburg, Miss., and Sacramento, Calif.

In exchange for their service, Corps Members receive \$5,815 to help pay for college, or to pay back existing student loans. Other benefits include a small living stipend, room and board, travel, leadership development, increased self-confidence, and the knowledge that, through active citizenship, people can indeed make a difference. AmeriCorps NCCC is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, visit the website at www.americorps.gov/nccc.



Winter ducks and geese

by Jeff Tacey
photo by Jason Havens

With it finally getting colder and duck season closed in Teller and Park Counties as of November 28th it's time to hunt eastern Colorado. Duck season opens again here on December 24th, but the water is frozen by then. You have until January 29th to hunt ducks and February 12th to hunt geese.

In Northeast Colorado try Atwood SWA (State Wildlife Area) on the South Platte River, which has one-half mile of river access to hunt ducks and geese. Bravo SWA, just to the east has six miles of river bottom to set decoys. If the area reservoirs are frozen, the waterfowl will frequent the river more. Years ago a friend and I shot mergansers and wood ducks here.

A favorite of mine in this area is North Sterling State Park. The southeast corner of the reservoir has a walk-in area where pass shooting is good for Canadian geese; 1,000 to 5,000 can winter here each year. First and last light are your best times.

In Southeast Colorado try Rocky Ford SWA, decoying and calling on the Arkansas River will bring in ducks. Meredith Reservoir also holds ducks and geese. Find some brush or tall grass to hide in and set your decoys.

The east end of John Martin Reservoir is a state park and the west is a SWA. A lot of



The author with three mallard and two green winged teal.

waterfowl winter here. Hunting can be quite good with some research.

Queens SWA has five reservoirs which have good duck and goose hunting. Decoying, pass shooting are popular and pit blinds are available.

Check the 2016 Colorado Waterfowl guide and cpw.state.co.us/regulations for rules at SWA and state parks.

Remember: the worse the weather, the better the waterfowl hunting. Maybe I'll see you out there.

American Legion Post 171's Home restoration project

by Rich Ingold and Steven Wade Veatch



Andrew Smith and members of the American Legion, standing in front of Smith's Cripple Creek home, are checking out the progress of making his home habitable. Andrew is the second person from the left.

The Victor-Cripple Creek American Legion Post 171 has a proud tradition of serving veterans in the community since 1934. Most recently, Post 171 took on their biggest challenge yet. They are helping Andrew Smith, an honorably discharged four-year Marine Corp veteran with a 100 percent disability. Andrew is also the sole legal parent of his seven-year-old son who has muscular dystrophy.

In the recent past, an organization came to help him refurbish his house. They did a partial job and left the house uninhabitable. Andrew and his son are currently living with Andrew's mother in Oklahoma, but they want to return to their home in Cripple Creek.

Post 171 is leading the project of restoring Andrew's home and making it handicap accessible for his son. This project will involve a lot of work by licensed tradespeople and experienced volunteers, building materials, and financial resources.

Post members are currently raising funds and working on the house. Work has already begun to bring the lot up to grade and minimize the length of the handicap ramp while complying with ADA requirements.

His experiences in Iraq forever changed Andrew's life, and with the added responsibilities of raising a child with a disabling disease, it's our turn and our privilege to extend a helping hand to him. Post members are working hard and looking forward to the day when Andrew and his son will be able to return home.

Any help others can provide in supporting this important work or in spreading the word about this project will be one more step toward Andrew and his son returning to their home in Cripple Creek.

Donors may make a tax-deductible donation to the American Legion Post 171, P.O. Box 604, Cripple Creek, CO 80813 or visit the Go Fund Me site at <https://www.gofundme.com/7h-Andrews-home>.

WPHS Cheerleaders



WPHS Cheer Team includes: Back Row from left: Rebecca Loy, Brooke Stein, Aurora Betley-Rodabough, Lexus Ramirez, and Ava Kilby.

Middle Row from left: Head Coach Nicole Geniesse, Taylor Langlois, Lilian Rodarte, Jady Nogenholm, Brooke Bowman, Mackenzie Mitchell, Abby Kiedinger, and Assistant Coach Stefanie Merson.

Front Row from left: Cole McMurtry (co-captain), Julia Jones, Morgan Van Camp (captain), Mackenzie Merson (captain), and Lauren Lambert (captain).

Woodland Park High School Cheerleaders were named the Colorado Springs Metro League 4A Champions in a recent cheer competition held at WPHS. Competing against seven other teams, they were judged on a 2½ minute routine to include a 1-minute cheer that promoted crowd involvement and a 1½ minute routine incor-

porating jumps, stunts, pyramid building, and dance.

The team also won 2nd place at Rumble at the Rockies competition at Air Academy High School in Colorado Springs and will be competing at the state level against 45 4A and 5A co-ed cheer teams on Dec. 9 at the Denver Coliseum.

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Family Birthing Center receives high marks in CDC survey

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center's Family Birthing Center exceeded both state and national standards on a nationwide survey of maternity care practices conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Every two years, the CDC administers the Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey to all hospitals and birth centers in the U.S. and its territories that routinely provide maternity care. HRRMC was one of 2,582 facilities that responded to the mPINC survey in 2015, representing 82 percent of facilities across the nation that provide maternity services.

The CDC calculated scores for every facility and state and recently released that data. HRRMC's total mPINC score was 90 out of 100, an increase of six percent over 2013. Across Colorado, the average score was 63 and the national average mPINC score was 79.

A facility's mPINC score is an overall quality score that averages seven sub-scores in areas such as labor and delivery care, postpartum feeding of breastfed infants,

breastfeeding assistance and staff training.

Hospital routines can help or hinder new mothers and babies while they are learning to breastfeed, according to the CDC. Birth facility practices that create a supportive environment for breastfeeding begin prenatally and continue through discharge. These practices include newborns' skin-to-skin contact with their mothers, hospital staff teaching about breastfeeding, and hospital staff encouraging mothers and babies to room together.

"I am very proud of this accomplishment. It is a complete team effort involving the physicians and nursing staff here in the Family Birthing Center who are all very committed to introducing and helping with breastfeeding," said Judy Smith, manager of the Family Birthing Center. "We all spend time on education and research to be sure we are offering the most up-to-date information and techniques to the moms."

For more information about HRRMC's Family Birthing Center, call 719-530-2277 or visit hrrmc.com.

CSHF elects 2017 board officers

The Colorado Springs Health Foundation has elected its 2017 slate of board officers:

Chair: BJ Scott, Secretary: Jon Medved, Treasurer: R. Thayer Tutt.

Other trustees include Kathy Boe, Debbie Chandler, Lynette Crow-Iverson, David Lord, Zach McComsey and Mia Ramirez.

During 2016, its first year of grant-making, Colorado Springs Health Foundation awarded 44 grants totaling more than \$2.6 million to El Paso and Teller County organizations and collaborative efforts focused on improving access to care; addressing the primary care and psychiatric provider workforce shortage; preventing suicide; or expanding school-based healthy eating or active living initiatives for children and families.

The Colorado Springs Health Foundation was established in 2012 through the lease of Memorial Health System to University of Colorado Health. The Foundation's mission is to provide grants that target immediate healthcare needs and encourage healthy living.

HRRMC celebrates Milk Donation and Outreach Center

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce the grand opening of their Mothers' Milk Bank (MMB) Donation and Outreach Center. The new location is in the hospital's Family Birthing Center. An opening celebration was held on Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016.

Dan and Megan Lombardo of Salida took part in the opening and shared their personal experience with MMB in Denver following the birth of their daughter in 2013. "My milk didn't exactly come rushing in to greet her!" said Megan Lombardo. They started to use a supplemental nursing system with donor human milk until Lombardo had an adequate supply of her own. "Not only did MMB help us when we needed it the most at the beginning, but they helped us go on to continue to successfully breastfeed exclusively."

HRRMC is one of two rural Colorado donation and outreach centers for MMB, a Colorado-based, nonprofit program benefiting women and babies nationwide. Mothers in our region can make a difference in babies' lives by donating their excess milk to MMB.

HRRMC's Family Birthing Center staff will safely ship the milk donations to MMB's Denver facility, where it is pasteurized and distributed to babies across the

country whose mothers cannot supply sufficient milk for their needs.

"We are honored to be part of this amazing program," said Family Birthing Center Manager Judy Smith. "Donor human milk saves the lives of fragile infants, and we are grateful for the women who so generously donate."

To learn more about MMB and its efforts to provide milk to babies who need it nationwide, visit www.milkbankcolorado.org. Women interested in giving the gift of donor human milk may fill out the donation screening form on MMB's website or call 303-869-1888. For more information about HRRMC's milk donation and outreach center opening, call 719-530-2417.

A nonprofit program of Rocky Mountain Children's Health Foundation, Mothers' Milk Bank (MMB) collects, processes and provides human donor milk to babies across the country. Babies who receive the milk may be premature or have severe illnesses and need human milk to thrive. MMB consistently provides more milk to neonatal intensive care units than any other nonprofit milk bank in North America and adheres to the strict guidelines of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America. For more information on MMB, visit www.milkbankcolorado.org.

IREA joins other utilities in warning of scams

Intermountain Rural Electric Association has joined dozens of electric, natural gas and water providers in designating the third Wednesday in November as Utilities United Against Scams Day.

Utilities United Against Scams Day, which fell on Nov. 16 this year, aimed to promote customer awareness of the many scam attempts made by individuals impersonating utility company representatives. Increased awareness will help safeguard utility customers, which include people across all regions and demographics. Scams in recent years have increasingly taken the form of phone calls in which the scammer, posing as a utility employee, threatens to disconnect service unless immediate payment is made, typically in the form of prepaid debit cards. Scammers often target commercial operations such as restaurants and retail stores at peak business hours, during

which owners and managers cannot risk losing electric, natural gas or water service.

As part of the effort to prevent scams, IREA offered several precautions and tips:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- IREA never demands a prepaid debit card or money order to avoid immediate disconnection.
- Immediately contact police and your utility if you believe you have been targeted by a scam.

IREA is happy to provide additional information regarding both the Utilities United Against Scams campaign and fraud prevention in general. Feel free to contact Josh Liss, IREA Corporate Affairs Manager, at 720-733-5543 or jliss@irea.coop if you would like more information.

Buying Mount Shavano's Summit

by John Cameron

A land purchase is set to close on some of the highest real estate in the country. If approved, Colorado Fourteener Initiative, a Golden conservation organization, will become the private owner of the summit of 14,325-foot-tall Mount Shavano.

Few people can say they own the top of one of Colorado's highest peaks, said Lloyd Athearn, executive director of Colorado Fourteener Initiative.

"Our goal with the purchase of the land is the same as our mission across the state — to provide sustainable summit routes to the state's fourteeners," he said.

The purchase of about 40 acres of patented mining claims that include the summit could provide legal access for hikers visiting the top of the peak for the first time in more than 100 years.

Hikers reaching the summit by way of the standard route have likely trespassed unknowingly across the private mining claims.

"Right now the sellers are conceptually on board with the idea of us purchasing the land and have committed until the end of February to close on the sale of the land, pending Colorado Fourteener Initiative board approval," said Athearn, who said he is optimistic about the outcome of the land sale.

Mount Shavano can be seen from Salida and is the southernmost fourteener in the Sawatch Range. It is a prominent peak in the Upper Arkansas Valley and consists of land predominantly managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The process of purchasing the summit of Mount Shavano has been several years in the making, said Athearn.

A realization that the summit was privately held came about when the condition of the current trail leading up to the peak had deteriorated. An unplanned "social trail" leading to the summit across private property has experienced severe erosion in sensitive alpine tundra, Athearn said.

During a 2011 assessment of summit trails by Colorado Fourteener Initiative, the access to Mount Shavano was given a grade of "F." Later assessments would downgrade that rating even further to an "F-."

Plans by the U.S. Forest Service to improve the trail were put on hold because the land was privately held, so Colorado Fourteener Initiative set out to contact the landowners and purchase their mining claims, said Athearn.

Staff members at Colorado Fourteener Initiative were able to track down the owners, who lived in Colorado, Florida, and Arkansas and held three key mining claims that are without road access and reached only by hiking. "We ended with an Arkansas phone book and called everyone with a name similar to that of one of the owners," said Athearn. After many tries, a living relative of the original owner of a crucial claim was located.

After some convincing, a deal between the three owners and CFI was reached, he said.

"We wanted them to know that we intended to buy their land so that we can build a new summit trail on the mountain and have no intentions to mine any of the parcels," said Athearn.

"We have the anticipated \$40,500 needed to buy the mining claims making us the private owners of the land," he said. The transaction, if completed, would work out to roughly \$1,000 per high alpine acre.

In September, Athearn hiked the steep trail up the side of Mount Shavano to see the property for himself.

A map provided by Colorado Fourteener Initiative shows a proposed reroute for the standard summit trail of Mount Shavano. After trail improvements are made, Lloyd Athearn, executive director of Colorado Fourteener Initiative, said nearly 40 acres of privately held land, indicated by yellow lines, would be given to the U.S. Forest Service, courtesy of Colorado Fourteener Initiative.

Julie Anderson, a hiker from Salida, takes in the views near the summit of 14,325-foot-tall Mount Shavano. The summit of the peak could be privately owned by Golden Conservation group Colorado Fourteener Initiative through a land deal expected to close early next year. For more than 100 years, hikers reaching the summit by the standard route have had to trespass across private mining claims, likely unknowingly. photo by John Cameron.

The land in question stretches across a gentle saddle just below the final summit. A steeper portion of land, where the bulk of the erosion problem exists, is just below the saddle at the top of the steep drainage that forms the familiar "Angel of Shavano" snow formation.

"We had some analysis done to ensure that the mining claims are not subject to some environmental concern," said Athearn. Mining in the area does not appear to have taken place in many years, if at all, he said.

While further researching the property, maps showing private land on Mount Shavano had proven to be inaccurate. "I was able to find, after scouring the side of the mountain, a property corner indicated with an old wooden survey post from 1902. The revelation meant that even more of the private

land would be in sensitive areas crucial for summit access than previously thought," Athearn said, noting it was an exciting find for the conservation organization.

Funding for the land was secured through multiple private means. The estate of Boulder outdoor enthusiast Michael O'Brien and the Fort Worth nonprofit Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation pledged a combined \$35,000 for the acquisition. Additional funds came in the form of micro donations, said Athearn.

Colorado Fourteeners Initiative plans to work with the U.S. Forest Service to establish a sustainable route to the summit of Mount Shavano for public access.

"Once we have completed the trail reconstruction and restoration process, CFI plans to donate these lands to the U.S. Forest Service

so that they become part of the publicly owned fourteener trail system," said Athearn.

Even after the land is handed over, not all of Colorado's fourteeners summits would be on public land.

Culebra Peak, a 14,053-foot summit near the New Mexico border, is the only other privately owned fourteener summit. The peak is within the 77,000-acre Cielo Vista Ranch, and Texas millionaires Bobby Hill and Richard Welch, who own the ranch, charge hikers more than \$100 each to attempt to reach the summit.

"We don't have any intention to mine the land or limit public access," said Athearn.

Colorado's 54 peaks that are 14,000 feet or higher attract thousands of hopeful hikers each year. In 2015, an estimated 260,000 hikers visited the state's highest peaks.

The Sawatch Range, during the same year, saw approximately 95,000 hikers, and Mount Shavano alone saw 5,000 to 7,000 visitors in 2015. Summit totals for the peak are harder to estimate because the summit is often hiked along with nearby Tabeguache Peak, 14,155 feet.

For their part, Chaffee County commissioners elected to contribute \$2,500 to trail reconstruction underway on Mount Columbia and other trails in Chaffee County during a meeting at the end of October.

"We are excited to own the summit of one of these peaks, even if only for a few years," said Athearn.

If the purchase is approved CFI board members, hikers on Mount Shavano will see few changes in the coming years. Because much of the reroute and trail improvements would take place on federal land, changes to the trail will undergo an environmental impact study and procedures dictated by the National Environmental Policy Act, said Athearn.

"We are interested to see what can be learned from a comprehensive study of the area and would follow those recommendations on the privately held land," he said.

Following the assessment, which could take up to two years, trail construction on a new summit route would begin.



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CUSP's impact to continue

by Coalition for the Upper South Platte

What would our watershed look like if CUSP didn't exist? An important practice for any nonprofit organization is to take an objective look at their organization and judge success, or lack thereof, by asking this type of simple, honest question.

This past April, CUSP's board and staff did just that during a two-day Strategic Planning retreat, deep in the heart of the Hayman burn scar at Lost Valley Ranch. Before we could move forward with updating the plan, it was vital that we ask that question.

We answered it by projecting a data-driven picture of CUSP's work over two decades. It showed profound evidence of the positive impacts CUSP has had in the Upper South Platte watershed and beyond. Our past success drives our future projects.

A tour of the Upper South Platte watershed shows an active and vibrant environment where people live, work and play. The 1.6 million-acre watershed is home to many flora, fauna and aquatic species; a diverse range of businesses and industry and fewer than 50,000 year-round residents. However, thousands upon thousands of people come to the watershed to recreate and millions of people depend on the watershed for their home water use.

CUSP's work restores and renews our watershed. From post fire restoration to resilient forest projects; flood mitigation and well sampling projects; environmental education projects for local youth and engaging policy makers and politicians, CUSP takes a holistic approach to protecting our precious natural resources.



Some highlights of this work from 2016 include:

- Bringing in more than \$1 million dollars in federal and state grants
- Expanding work in the northern watershed and opening the Bailey Slash site
- Partnering with Colorado Springs Utilities on Waldo Canyon Fire projects
- Managed more than 80 volunteer projects
- Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) deployments:
- 14 days on the Cliff Creek Fire in Jackson, WY
- 10 days on the Junkins Fire in Westcliffe, CO
- **Local Fire Response:**
 - June – 3 fires, Florissant and 4Mile
 - October – 2 Fires, NE Teller and Florissant

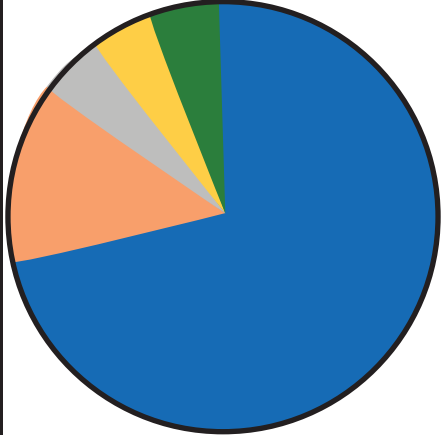
How does CUSP accomplish this? Much of our funding comes from government grants, most of which require matching funds. Our work is also supported with foundation grants and corporate giving as well as with donated services, program and service fees, and with contributions from generous and consistent donors like you.

Without the 22 percent in personal donations, contributions, volunteer (in-kind) services, foundation and corporate grants, we could not access millions of dollars in government grants. The Program & Service Fees (e.g., neighborhood chipping and slash sites) allow us to bring subsidized programming into the watershed to further benefit our community.

At CUSP, we leverage every donation we receive to maximize our donors' investments in our organization. In turn, these donations allow us to bring tax dollars back into our watershed for both large and small scale projects. In keeping with our mission and intent of best serving our community, more than 95 percent of the funds we receive go to on-the-ground projects, approximately 3 percent goes to general operating and administration and less than 2 percent is used for fundraising.



CUSP Revenue Streams



Revenue Stream	Color
Government Grants	Blue
Donated & In-kind services	Orange
Foundation & Corporate Grants	Grey
Contributions & Donations	Yellow
Program & Service Fees	Green

■ Government Grants
■ Donated & In-kind services
■ Foundation & Corporate Grants
■ Contributions & Donations
■ Program & Service Fees

From all of us at CUSP, we wish you and yours a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Holiday safety hint:

Temperatures are dropping and woodstoves are getting fired up. We are in a winter drought cycle and this can cause special problems with the use of wood burning stoves and fireplaces. Please, be careful about what you burn in your stove and fireplace. Items like paper and cardboard release embers from your chimney that can readily ignite fires in dry grasses and trees around your home. Please recycle, rather than burn, wrappings and boxes from Christmas presents.

A sincere Thank You

by Annie Durham, ABCD Campaign Chair

A campaign chair of the Always Believe in Children Drive Committee and an employee of Cripple Creek-Victor School District RE-1, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my very sincere thanks to those community members who expressed their support for our students and schools by voting in favor of 3A.

My husband and I are lifelong Colorado natives and have lived in many parts of the state, and we have resided in Cripple Creek since the summer of 2013. We feel extremely fortunate to have made the decision to move here as we have discovered a community that truly feels like home. I have been working at CC-V Jr./Sr. High School since the Fall of 2014 (special education, music and drama departments), and it is so much more than a job for me: this school is

my second family. It is for this reason that I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to work on this campaign alongside some wonderful volunteers.

Despite 3A not passing, our resolve as a district to continually strive to improve the overall educational experience of our students is by no means diminished. It is true that, as a district, we will need to significantly tighten our financial belt as we will have to dip into our reserves again next year in order to continue operating. However, we are also very encouraged by the fact that there are so many in this community who DO support the growth of our schools. It is with that fact in mind that I look forward to what we can and will accomplish as a community for the betterment of our students in the future.

lakes, like Turquoise Lake near Leadville. As glaciers moved downhill and combined with one another, they bulldozed long valleys with flattish bottoms. In some cases we've shored up their bulldozed piles of debris with dams, turning them into drinking water reservoirs.

We also have two sets of mountains that break tradition. That's because they don't have pointy peaks, but rather are flat-topped. The most famous of these is near Coors brewery. Not too long after the dinosaurs bit the dust 65 million years ago, a volcano northwest of Golden spewed hot lava. It flowed southward, filling up valleys like a lake. Over time, the mountains surrounding this cooled lava lake eroded away, but the hardened lava rock was durable, and protected the underlying strata from erosion; thus formed North and South Table Mountain. The same thing happened in an area between Steamboat, Meeker and Glenwood Springs. It formed our other rule-breaking mountain range, called the Flat Tops.

So why do we have so many fourteens, even compared to volcano-rich places like California and Washington? You'd think that only the edges of continents, where the tectonic plates are ramming into one another, would have giant mountains, like the Himalayas, Andes, and Alps.

Moreover, why are our "plains" a mile high? It's because about 10 million years ago, Colorado and vicinity began to be uplifted like rising cake batter. Rivers and glaciers cut downward into the rocks and sediments underfoot, exposing them and sculpting the landscape we have today. In some cases, big piles of sediment were washed out onto the plains, creating the largest reservoir of groundwater in the U.S. — the Ogallala aquifer. Where rivers got "stuck" in our mountains' resistant bedrock, they cut deep v-shaped chasms like Royal Gorge, Glenwood Canyon, and Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

Just last year, scientists figured out why this happened. Water from a melting tectonic plate that long ago got shoved under North America percolated upward beneath what's now our High Plains. It transformed the overlying minerals and rocks, making them less dense. Colorado became more buoyant, rising like a marshmallow floating on the earth's inner hot cocoa. Nature's erosional processes did the rest, with rivers, wind, and ice dissecting the landscape and redistributing its sedimentary bounty. The Rockies will still periodically be

punctured by volcanoes and cracked apart by tectonic movements, but not in our lifetimes. Yet our mountains and plains are still gently rising. As a result, the Rockies are slowly eroding away and being deposited on the high plains, making our landscape less lumpy over time. But don't worry, you'll

still have plenty of time to bag some peaks before the Rockies end up in Kansas.

James Hagadorn, Ph.D., is a scientist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Suggestions & comments welcome at jwhagadorn@dmns.org

Bird's eye view of the Gore Range, 20,000 years ago, when glaciers dominated our mountains. Silverthorne is at the bottom of the image. See <https://vimeo.com/coloradoigp> for an animation of how Colorado evolved during the ice age. Image: P. Weimer.

Bird's eye view of the Gore Range, 13,000 years ago, after glaciers retreated from their peak at 20,000 years ago. Silverthorne is at the bottom of the image. See <https://vimeo.com/coloradoigp> for an animation of how Colorado evolved during the ice age. Image: P. Weimer.

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Day Trippin' With Karen Travels in the Arkansas River Valley

by Karen Earley
photos by Karen Earley

Is your Christmas shopping done? Are you driving straight home and not stopping because it's dark? Are you starting to feel that "holiday stress?" You're not alone, and this season there is hope... Don't worry! Be Happy! Start Day Trippin with Karen, in the Arkansas River Valley.

Try a new café for brunch. Take a gallery tour of creative art and bookshops. Enjoy Christmas shopping in some of the most eclectic and traditional stores, hunt for stocking stuffers and that perfect gift. Then, reward yourself with a sumptuous dinner and top it all off with beer tasting amongst the locals! This will be a great trip to relieve some of that stress, get the shopping done, and have fun while you're at it!

This trip starts at **Seasons Café**, 1110 E. Hwy. 50, where what-you-see is what-you-get. Owners Kristofer Sackett and Julie Kimbrough are proud to say it's from "Farm to Table" for both herbivores and carnivores and that makes for unbeatable taste. Talk about shopping local, they literally know 75 percent of their farmers personally. Seasons Café also supports the Salida School's garden. They purchase food daily after the school cafeterias are supplied. At harvest time, Julie, Kris and their staff are out there with the kids pulling up vegetables!

Kris and Julie started Seasons three years ago and their goal was to create a relaxing atmosphere with healthy and delicious fun food like; Cat Head Biscuits & Gravy, Green Eggs and Hash, Crème Brûlée French Toast, Rocket Fuel, Quinoa and Street Tacos. Don't forget about lunch, with choices like Green Chili Popper Grilled Cheese, Bison Burgers

or Veggie Packed Farm Fresh Salad. Seasons Café offers craft cocktails made from Colorado spirits and local beers. Enjoy a Mountain Mimosa or a Bloody Mary with your brunch. If you're on the run, you can call in or text to have them start on your 'to go' order. 719-530-9525. www.seasonssalida.com

The Salida Mixing Bowl, located at 148 F Street, is "Where Home Happens!" Touted as your hometown gourmet kitchenware store, it's also a great place to shop for super gifts. It's clear why they were voted Best Gift Shop by the *Mountain Mail* several years in a row. The Mixing Bowl says it best, "We make great cooking and dining happen for you with our big city selection of cookware and electrics, colorful table settings, southwestern flatware, gourmet foods and state-of-the-art gadgets. Explore our new bath and home accessories as well. Enjoy our exceptional service, free gift wrapping, bridal and personal gift registries." (What a great idea!)

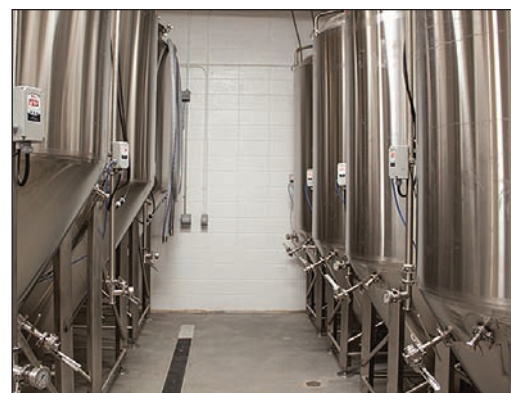
By the way, I second the "exceptional customer service." Owners Katy and Bob Grether have a friendly and diverse staff. They actually partner with the Starpoint agency in hiring adult sales associates with disabilities. According to Katy, "With the help and supervision of a job coach which Starpoint provides, our staff learns the fundamentals of retail sales and other skills that are transferable to employment and social opportunities throughout the community."

Salida Mixing Bowl is open every day, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays noon to 4 p.m., 719-539-2655. salidamixingbowl@outlook.com

Brodeur Art, at 133 E. 2nd Street, is exciting, charismatic, colorful, and whimsical for starters. Paulette Brodeur is "one of the original Salida artists-a handful of funky folks who, over the past 20 years, descended on this sleepy mountain hamlet looking for inspirational views and cheap rent, and ended up turning the whole town around, and one of the founders of Salida Artists." Excerpt from Online History, brodeurart.com.

Her past is extraordinary as we continue to learn about her history: "Brodeur spent much of her youth in Europe, but her art career can be traced back to when she took private lessons with renowned Ft. Worth, Texas artist Josephine Mahaffey. Mahaffey, unbeknownst to the then 10-year-old, entered one of Brodeur's early paintings, an acrylic titled "The Circus" into the Texas State Fair where the painting was awarded second place. She later attended the Art Institute of Dallas and moved back to Paris for a while, being introduced to Parisian art museums and design houses.

Her artwork includes: Fun, Landscapes, Sports, Pet Portraits, Day of the Dead, Abstract and Expressionistic. The Gallery is open on Monday, Friday, Saturday, noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., and by appointment. You can also see Brodeur art at Café Dawn,



The fermenters are busy at the Hubbub Brewery.

drop in for a coffee! The Gallery also features Linda Heltzel's Functional Art Quilts. You can stop by on Monday's to see Linda or call her cell, 719-942-3170. For more gallery info go to www.brodeurart.com or call 719-221-1272

Eye Candy, Art and Treasure, located at 118 North F Street, has something for everyone. According to Nikki and Kristen, the Gallery is considered "a crazy little combination of Art and Treasure from Salida and around the world." You will find paintings by local artists, some very sweet jewelry, pottery, woodcarvings, handmade drums, jewelry-made from Mt Antero Aqua Marine, vintage pin up girl art, puppets, and Native American and Day of the Dead pieces.

Eye Candy will be the featured gallery for Salida's "2nd Saturday Gallery Tours," December 10 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. All of the galleries will be open for touring. At Eye Candy in addition to displaying the art represented by over 40 professional artists, they will be showcasing renowned painter Garrett Suydam, of Denver.

You are invited to drop by and meet some of the artists, Jimmy Descant, Stan Cymansky, Kristen Hamilton, James Brown and featured artist Garrett Suydam. Take in the festivities and enjoy refreshments. For more information call 719-539-2250 or email 4eyecandy@earthlink.net.

Quincys Tavern, 710 Milford Street, Salida (off Hwy. 50) has an ambiance from

continued on next page



Pet portrait from Brodeur Art.



Paulette Brodeur relaxes in her studio/gallery, Brodeur Art.

the past. With lounge type tables and chairs, a sunken bar, and romantic lighting, it takes you back to the good-of-days when the owner's Grandfather remembers, "you could get a simplistic menu that features a quality meal at an affordable price!" Moreover, at Quincys, it's always Happy Hour with house made Margaritas \$3.75 and well cocktails \$2.25. Along with manager, Amy Ringer, you'll find warm and friendly staff. It doesn't take long before they know you by name.

Here's the simplistic menu: Sunday thru Thursday, Filet Mignon Dinner; starting at 6 oz. for \$9.95. Friday and Saturday, Prime Rib Dinner starting at 8 oz. for \$12.95, or Slow Roasted Sirloin; 7 oz. \$8.95. Dinners include baked potato, wedge salad with specialty house dressing and French bread. Hours are 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

What a fabulous concept by the owners of Quincys. Check out their history at Quincystavern.com. For more information call 719-539-3059. You can also find Quincys in Buena Vista and Leadville.

What's the Hubbub? Why is it the talk of the town? The question is the answer. Congratulations to **Hubbub Brewing**, 248 W. Hwy 50, on their Grand Opening! This a perfect last stop for the day trip. Time to do some beer tasting, relax and rest on our "shopping done" laurels! If by chance we forgot something, Hubbub has some great gifts, too.

Marketing Director, Eric Ramsey, shares the Hubbub story, "Hubbub Brewing began when friends and brewing colleagues Mike LaCroix and Tom Price, previously of Amicas Pizza and Brewpub, joined forces with Scott Bouldin, founder of the brew house at Moonlight Pizza. The desire was to take what they had learned from their previous careers and grow it into a full service production facility."

A love of the craft, and other people's love of the beer, clearly inspired these intrepid entrepreneurs to strike out on their own and grow the business!

A tasting room and beer garden will feature up to 16 fresh craft beers on tap. "This will be a place where people can come and enjoy a variety of fresh brewed craft beers in a relaxing environment. We want people to feel comfortable here," says CEO Mike LaCroix. With the mountain view, sunny showroom, table top seating and long tasting bar, it's an ideal place for that.

Finally, let's talk beer: Helles, Coconut Milk Stout, X-Ray IPA, Hefeweizen, Robust Porter (Yum!), Green Chile Ale, Fresco y Seco, and American ESB to start. To schedule a tour call 719-539-5428. www.hubbubbrewing.com

If you are interested in being featured in a day trip with Karen, email her at coloearels@gmail.com

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Shade Hunters

by Danielle Dellinger

We last saw Bender and Time Warp in November 2016's issue, on pages 20 & 21, "Return."

Bender smiled at Time Warp, the question of accompanying her to the market having amused her. But she was more amused by how nervous Ti was. She didn't answer for a moment, watching as Ti began to wring her hands together.

"Sure, I'll come," she finally said. "I know where it is."

Ti's face lit up with delight. "Great!" she exclaimed.

Bender chuckled and started down the street. Time Warp followed, admiring her. She admired the way she carried herself, strong and tall. She admired the way the confidence radiated off of her. She admired her ebony skin. She admired how gracefully she walked. They walked for a few more minutes, and eventually the sound of music drifted up the brick street, bouncing off of the brick buildings.

They stepped out onto the main street of the market and looked around at the many vendors with large crowds bustling around them.

"What're you in the mood to get?" Bender asked, looking at Time Warp.

Ti shrugged. "Some bread, maybe, and clothes."

Bender nodded and turned right down the street, leading the way to the nearest clothing vendor. Ti stayed on her heels, not wanting to get separated. A sweet scent wafted off of Bender, but Ti couldn't place it. She'd never smelled anything like it before. Bender suddenly stopped and Ti nearly ran into her.

"I think this is your style," Bender said, pointing to a multicolored dress with a skirt that flared out.

How did she know? Ti had instantly been drawn to that dress before Bender had said anything.

Bender smirked when she saw the look of confusion on Ti's face. "I guessed right?"

"Y-yeah," Ti stammered, stepping forward and rubbing the skirt between her fingers.

"I think it'd look good on you," Bender whispered in Ti's ear.

A warm light glowed inside of Ti's soul at the whisper of Be's voice in her ear. "Then I'll get it," she said, taking it off the peg. She paid for it, and then tucked it under her arm.

"You should put it on," Be suggested.

"Isn't it a bit fancy for this place, though?" Ti asked, looking down at the dress and then up at Bender.

"Not at all. It'll help you to fit in."

Time Warp briefly debated, then went to an appropriate place to change. When she came back, she saw Bender burst into a grin that made her eyes smile.

"It's perfect!" Bender squealed giddily.

Time Warp blushed and smoothed down the skirt some. "Yeah?"

"Absolutely," Bender took a step forward and then abruptly stopped, looking over Time Warp's shoulder. "Time Warp saw her expression, and she started to turn when Bender grabbed her hand and started running."

Time Warp stumbled a little, but quickly regained her balance as she kept up with Bender. "What's wrong?" she asked.

"Shade Hunters," Bender said hurriedly, yanking Ti down a side street.

"What're those?"

"They hunt auras, collecting the powerful ones for themselves."

"What are auras, and what happens when you lose your aura?"

"An aura is a bioenergy field that is made of many different layers and colors. An aura's shape looks similar to an egg that surrounds the entire body, and if you lose it you start to question your identity, and become very submissive. You blindly follow others because you still have a need to fit in and an identity."

Time Warp glanced over her shoulder in time to see figures dressed in white chasing after them.

"Are there weak auras? What about them?"

"The Shade Hunters use those people with weak auras as their slaves. Their job is to either lead the Shade Hunters to powerful auras, or try to turn someone into a slave by weakening their aura."

"That's insane! How do they capture—"

Before she could finish her question, she felt a searing pain in her back that almost immediately rendered her paralyzed. She fell to the ground, her body rigid.

"Ti!" Bender shouted, whirling around. She stood over Ti's body to protect her, a hand outstretched in front of her, pointing at the Shade Hunters. "You will not get her!"

The Shade Hunters stopped and got into a V formation. They remained silent, and then began to march toward the two women.

"Cease your march!" Bender shouted.

They kept coming.

Bender shut her eyes, gathered her strength, and then a deep red light sprang out from her body in an egglike shape, curved forward around her like wings, then shot out thousands of beams at the Hunters. They raised their arm guards and the beams were deflected off of them. The beams ricocheted into the nearby buildings, causing chunks of brick to smash to the ground.

Bender merely intensified her glare and her aura flared out more, this time wrapping around the Shade Hunters' necks. They made quiet choking sounds, but then one of them pulled out a staff and struck the beam around his neck, causing Bender's entire aura to disappear. She dropped to her knees beside Time Warp.

The Shade Hunters closed in around them. Bender put her body across Ti's to protect her.

"M-my hand," Ti grunted. "I-take it."

"What?" Bender hissed.

"Do i-it."

Bender grabbed Ti's hand firmly where it was on the ground.

Ti watched as a Shade Hunter started to lean down toward her, his reflection growing bigger and bigger in her eyes. She suddenly felt a rising charge of power inside of her, and in the next moment there was an explosion that rocked the street and sent the Shade Hunters flying back in different directions.

When the dust settled and Bender could see again, she realized that she and Ti were sitting in a crater five feet deep. She carefully got to her feet and began to drag Ti out of the crater. Once safely out of it, she picked Ti up and ran as fast and far away as she could from the street. She finally stopped running behind a cemetery. She set Ti down, looking at her back to see what she'd been hit with.

It was as thin as a pen with an orb on the top that had an orange color that was slowly glowing brighter the more the orb was filled.

"It . . . hurts . . ." Ti gasped, sounding faint.

"I'll get it out somehow," Bender said quickly. She closed her hand over the orb, willing the orange glow to return to Time Warp. After a minute she peeked under her hand and was disappointed to see that the orange was still in the orb.

"H-h-hurry . . ." Ti breathed listlessly.

"I'm trying!" Bender exclaimed, this time attempting to just pull out the instrument.

It wouldn't budge.

Bender knew she was too late when Time Warp suddenly went limp. Then, the instrument fell away of its own accord.

"Ti," Bender said frantically, shaking her. "Ti, wake up."

It took a moment, but Time Warp finally sat up. She was pale, like she had no soul. Bender exhaled, her eyes wide with worry.

"Let's get you up," she said, getting to her feet, pocketing the aura collector instrument and holding her hands out to Ti.

"Okay," she said weakly, lifelessly as she sluggishly got to her feet with Bender's help.

Bender didn't know where to go, but she knew they had to keep moving so the Shade Hunters couldn't collect Time Warp's aura or make her a slave. She put her arm around Ti and started leading her to the more vacant part of town. She watched Ti out of the corner of her eye, amazed at how she was now like a zombie.

She even shuffled along like one. The new dress was now tattered and covered in dust.

As they walked, the sounds of a lively city faded and were replaced by the sounds of coughing, crying, and yelling. They were entering the slums, an area where few dared to go because of how dangerous and sickly the people unfortunately stuck there were. Bender steered them down by the river, which smelled of feces and dead fish.

Time Warp gagged at the smell, having to stop and hurl in the bushes.

"I'm sorry," Bender said. "This will have to do for now."

"It's okay," Ti meekly responded.

Hearing Time Warp speaking with such smallness flared Bender's anger. She wanted to rain fire down on the Shade Hunters. She didn't know Ti that well, true, but she knew enough to know that such a strong woman didn't deserve this. She told Time Warp to sit down, and then she pulled out the aura collector and stabbed it into the ground. She moved a few feet back from it, firmed up her stance, pointed at it, and let her fury build inside of her.

"Ti, touch the orb," she demanded, and Ti did. Bender stared at the orange glow, willing it to bend to her will, to allow her to manipulate it, to allow her to free it. When nothing happened after a couple minutes, she dropped her hand, let out a feral yell, then picked up a rock and hurled it into the water. The splash startled a bird into the air.

After several more attempts, Bender sat down exhausted. The putrid smell of the water burned her nostrils and made her stomach swirl. She looked over at Time Warp, and noticed that she was staring at the orange glow. Bender blinked. Maybe there was a bit of her aura left in her. She crawled over to Time Warp.

"What're you doing?" Bender asked.

Time Warp shrugged, not looking at her.

"Do you want it? Do you want what's in the orb?"

It took her some time, but Ti finally nodded.

Bender glanced around them, and she happened to see a group of Shade Hunters quickly approaching. She didn't know why they risked coming here, unless they knew there was something special about Time Warp. She narrowed her eyes and glared at them, then put Ti's other hand on the orb and put her own hands over hers.

"You have to want it, Ti. You have to take it back. It's yours and no one else's. You have to fight for it," she said. "Close your eyes and take back your identity." She watched as Ti closed her eyes and seemed to go to her happy place. She worried that she'd lost her, that she'd just gone over the edge into the abyss.

"Come on," Bender muttered to herself. "Come on."

Nothing happened for what felt like eternity, but then an orange glow expanded out underneath their hands and it grew brighter with each passing second. Bender noticed that it was starting to travel up Time Warp's arms, to her shoulders, and then down to her heart. The light was soon so bright that Bender had to shut her eyes and turn her head away. When she opened them again and looked back, Time Warp was on her feet facing toward the Shade Hunters. It looked like there was fire coming out of her body and surrounding her. She let out an ear-splitting shriek, thrust her hand out toward the Hunters, and they were immediately incinerated into nothingness, not even ashes.

A stillness closed in around them. Time Warp turned around, an expression of shock on her face. "What . . . ?"

Bender smirked. "You just learned how to take back your aura and bend it to your will. Well done."

Time Warp looked down at her hands. "I never knew that was possible."

"Well, it's part of my ability, so I'm telling you it is."

Ti raised her eyes to Bender.

"Thank you," She knelt in front of her and grabbed her hands. "You saved me."

Bender shook her head.

"You saved yourself. You're so strong. You can definitely withstand a lot happening to you."

Time Warp suddenly leaned forward and pressed their lips together. It was a kiss unlike anything she'd ever felt.

She swore she saw the creation of the universe in her mind's eye. She swore she could feel the pulse of the universe in her veins.

She pulled back after eternity had flown by and looped back around to the beginning. She gazed into Bender's eyes, then shyly looked away, embarrassed by what she'd done.

"I'm so sorry," she stuttered, moving back. "That was out of line."

Bender smiled. "Don't apologize. I've been wanting to do that since you made that crater in the street."

Ti blushed, glancing up at her. "Really?"

"Yeah. The strength of your power is such a turn on."

Ti giggled, unable to look at her. She quieted after a minute. "Do you feel like we were meant to meet?"

Bender thought, and then nodded. "I do. When I first saw you, there was this draw to you."

"It feels like it was part of a plan."

Bender smiled. "Yes. A very intelligent plan." She got to her feet. "Would you like to go to dinner with me?"

Time Warp jumped happily. "I'd love to!" she said excitedly.

Bender unabashedly took her hand and led her out of the slums to a quaint part of town. They stopped at a very French-looking building, and were seated outside on the patio. Two white candles were lit in front of them, and Time Warp watched the flame flicker in Bender's eyes. She felt that the world was revolving around them. Not in an egotistical way, but in a way that felt they had powers that

could combine together to control the world.

As the sun set, violin music began to play. Time Warp forced herself to eat her food and not be distracted by Bender who was fading into the shadows because her skin was so black. It felt like she was growing larger than life to encompass Ti and the rest of the world. Dessert was eventually placed before them, a banana split set in a crystal dish. As they shared it, they each touched their finger to the crystal and a spark of their aura flashed against it, briefly lighting up the dish.

They eventually left the restaurant and began meandering through the streets, enjoying the night together. They soon could hear people yelling for help, and the smell of smoke choked them. They went running and found an orphanage on fire. A frantic woman grabbed at them when they came upon the scene of a building fully engulfed.

"The newborn baby! She's inside! Help her!" the woman screamed.

Bender and Time Warp sprang into action, darting into the doomed building. They followed some wailing upstairs. There was a baby bundled up in a crib with its mattress on fire. When they got a better look, they saw a baby with a bubble around it and black static lines dancing around the inside of it like a plasma globe.


To be continued . . .

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One Nation Walking Together

What's in a song?

by Kelsey Comfort

Can music inspire a movement? Well, let's take a look at an important decade for music — the 1960s. An article published by *Rolling Stone* on Aug. 23, 1990, titled "Bob Dylan, the Beatles, and the Rock of the Sixties" states that during the 1960s, "For a long and unforgettable season, it was a truism — or threat, depending on your point of view — that rock & roll could (and should) make a difference: that it was eloquent and inspiring and principled enough to change the world — maybe even to save it."



History has shown us that music can be a powerful force. Or at the very least, music can bring attention to an important issue. Just look at John Lennon's "Imagine," Edwin Starr's "War" and Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth." These songs and many more like them were influential and impactful and they are still remembered today.

Although rock 'n' roll may flow in and out of the mainstream, and music trends come and go — it's difficult to deny the importance of any type of music.

ONWT is fortunate enough to have a powerful song written and gifted to the organization by 2016's Native American Artist of the Year, Shelley Morningsong. The song is titled "One by One."

"This song speaks of helping our Native youth one by one, one at a time in order to assist and help them to succeed in life. To help them believe in themselves and to know they have a blessed future before them. This was a perfect fit I felt for One Nation to have this song because this is what they do. They have helped many, many children and families to have hope and to believe in themselves," Morningsong said.

Everyone at One Nation believes in Morningsong's message, and this holiday season we're asking you to believe it too. When Morningsong sings, "one by one we can make a difference" be inspired and join us for our winter fundraiser — our One by One Campaign.

Join the movement so that you can make a difference today. The Native Americans that ONWT serve face many obstacles and chal-

lenges both on and off the reservation. The statistics alone are shocking.

In 2014, according to the United States Census Bureau, 28.3 percent of single-race American Indians and Alaskan Natives lived in poverty, the highest rate of any race group. The national average was 15.5 percent. Additionally, according to Indian Health Service, for American Indians and Alaskan Natives, the suicide rate is 160 percent higher, the diabetes rate is 280 percent higher and chronic liver disease and cirrhosis is 470 percent higher.

One Nation makes a difference in the lives of 30,000 to 40,000 people every year by loading 53-foot semi-trucks that deliver up to \$2 million worth of donated goods to reservations annually. Also, through ONWT's food sustainability program Native families



Shelley Morningsong, 2016's Native American Artist of the Year, wrote a song for ONWT's fundraiser.

on and off the reservations are provided with chickens, coops, feed and direct support to create a continued source of food and potential income.

Donate to ONWT's One by One Campaign so that one by one with your help, we can continue to make an even greater impact. Please consider making a special year-end donation or a recurring

donation of \$25, \$50 or \$100 to help us meet our goal. We simply cannot do it without each one of you.

Now through Dec. 31, your donation will be matched up to \$14,000. To make your difference in the lives of those we serve, donate at www.onenationwt.org or mail your donation to:

One Nation Walking Together
3150 N. Nevada Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

For more information on how you can help, email office@onenationwt.org or call 719-329-0251.

ONWT continues to accept donations specifically for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock.



Learn how moose deal with winter.

BPEEC's Holiday open house and tree cutting

Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center located at 2234 Busch Run Road on Sacramento Creek off CR14 near Fairplay will be open on December 10th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join Beaver Ponds for some outdoor family fun during their final open house of the year. FREE guided tours in December will focus on winter ecology and how animals adapt to winter environment with a focus on beavers, moose and other animals.

"In addition to free guided tours, folks can make an old-fashioned memory with their family cutting a holiday tree," explains Krissy Barrett, Program Coordinator for Beaver Ponds. "You can enjoy the camaraderie of finding, cutting, and hauling out a tree for your home. It helps us too, as Beaver Ponds regularly thins trees as part of our forest management program. We'll lead you out to the tree thinning area and you may select your tree." A donation of \$25 or more is requested for each tree. Bring your skis, snowshoes, or winter boots (depending on snow levels).

Happy Holiday Alpaca cards will also be available for sale along with winter caps and alpaca yarn. For a small fee, interested folks can make a balm out of hand-pressed tinctures from medicinal plants found on the Beaver Ponds property. As always, farm fresh eggs will be available for sale (while they last!). All sales benefit BPEEC.

There is no need to preregister, just plan to swing on by!

The mission of Beaver Ponds Environmental Education Center is to provide environmental education that gives individuals of all ages the tools and knowledge they need to become better stewards of the earth. For more information about Beaver Ponds please visit www.beaverponds.org

Lighter Side of Christmas kicks off holiday season

"Rockin' Around Your Favorite Park" will honor Grand Marshals Neil Levy, Sally McCracken and Jean Rodeck at the 28th Annual Lighter Side of Christmas Parade scheduled for Saturday, December 3 at 6 p.m. in downtown Woodland Park.

The theme this year celebrates the 125th Anniversary of the City of Woodland Park and the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds were selected as the beneficiary for the parade. They have been actively engaging local businesses in sponsorships for the holiday event for the past few months. Proceeds raised by the fundraising effort will go towards education programs surrounding the local 34 million year old fossil park.

The Grand Marshal title will be shared this year by Levy, representing the City of Woodland Park, and McCracken and Rodeck for their contributions to the Florissant Fossil Beds.

Neil Levy, currently the Mayor of Woodland Park, has been active in the community since 1991 when he started working at the Swiss Chalet. He took over ownership of the restaurant in 1999 and moved to Woodland Park with his family. Watching him in action at the restaurant during the lunch rush; he is a perfect host attending to everyone who enters the door.

"Family is my biggest focus and I hope to be a grandpa one day," according to Levy. "As the

mayor of Woodland Park, I love being able to represent and lead the community of Woodland Park. It definitely has its challenges!" Levy added. "I recognize that I'm not the smartest guy in the room, but I can identify who that guy is and find a way to make things work."

Coaching two of his sons on the WPHS baseball team is another activity he enjoys when not at one of his two restaurants, the second being the Pepper Tree in Colorado Springs. "I think my dad would be proud of me. He thought it was incumbent of us to give back to the community. I wish he was around to witness this."

Sally McCracken arrived in the Woodland Park area over 20 years ago. As an educator for over 57 years, she knew she wanted to work with kids and served as teacher, principal and assistant superintendent during her career. "Every trip to Colorado, I'd hike another mountain and visit the Florissant Fossil Beds. I knew I wanted to be an interpretive ranger at the park," she said. Not only was she an interpreter for 20 years, McCracken also served on the board of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds for 16 years.

In 2008, McCracken was flown to Washington, DC to receive the George B. Hartzog Award for Outstanding Individual Volunteer of the Year for the entire National Park Service. "Jeff Wolin was on vacation at the time and flew to DC for the event to support

me," she said. "I am so honored to have been the recipient of that award. It was a highlight of my life." In 2008, McCracken was also instrumental helping to bring Richard Louv to the Pikes Peak Region to support "No Child Left Inside." Support from WPRE2, Cata-mount Ranch and Aspen Valley Ranch locally have helped bring all kids K-5 in the area to have experiences in the outdoors. "The Park Service and kids are my passion," she added.

Jean Rodeck was only 8-years old when she told her mom she was going to work in museums in the National Park Service. Forty-two years later, she has more than fulfilled that promise. Rodeck has served as a regional curator in two regions and has worked in all of the NPS Divisions in the National Park Service. Of the 412 parks, she has worked on 100 of them and visited all but 56 of the 412 to date. "I had to visit some over and over and they keep adding more," she laughed. "What a terrible life!"

As an interpretive planner, Rodeck had to take whatever resources were in the park and figure out the best way to present that information to the public so they would get the best experience from their visit. "I think every park should have an introduction film at the visitor center so people know what they're coming to see," she said. Rodeck retired from the NPS in 2002 and finished her career as the superintendent of the Florissant Fossil Beds.



Sally McCracken and Jean Rodeck will serve as co-Grand Marshals along with Mayor Neil Levy at this year's parade.

dent of the Florissant Fossil Beds. The Lighter Side of Christmas Holiday Treasure Hunt is in full swing. LSOC Gold Sponsors will have clues each week for those treasure hunters searching for the hidden fossil. The prize is a holiday basket valued at over \$1,000 with gifts provided by local businesses. Other events include the annual Coloring Contest, Gingerbread House Contest and Crazy Hat Contest. Information on these and other holiday events are available at www.lightersideofchristmas.com.

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Woodland Park High School held its annual Drive Smart campaign to educate students about smart driving without any distractions. The week included presentations, simulated games, crashed car examples, and positive messaging, to all students. Woodland Park Police Department, NE Teller County Fire Department, CDOT, and other volunteers helped make the week-long event a success!



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Stack up!

Students from Columbine Elementary School participated in sport stacking to help set a new STACK UP! Guinness World Record. On Nov. 17, 2016 thousands participated in the "World's Largest Sport Stacking Event" by up stacking and down stacking various pyramids for at least 30 minutes, all combined with a variety of fitness activities.

Sport Stacking has been termed a "track meet for your hands at warp speed." This was the 10th anniversary of this event and Columbine has participated in all of them.

"I love stacking for its benefit to improve reaction time, hand-eye coordination,

concentration and focus," said Ms. Julie Cutting, Columbine Physical Education teacher.

Last year, 618,394 stackers participated internationally to break the previous year's STACK UP! record of 592,292.



Construction site visit



A group of 2nd graders from Gateway Elementary Schools recently visited the construction site of the new Aquatic Center which is being built right next to their school. Gateway students participate in a Think Tank curriculum each week. This young group of students, known as "Excellent Engineers," are all interested in building. Construction workers shared blueprints, explained how a building is constructed, and answered questions from the students.



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Spotlight on the Divide Chamber

Each month we feature our new and renewing members of the Divide Chamber of Commerce. Please consider joining Divide Chamber and you can see your name listed here in the future - www.dividechamber.org.

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- Cripple Creek Care Center: 719-689-2931 or www.cc-care.org. Nursing home community.
- A.S. Gillespie & Associates, Inc.: 719-426-0757. Construction consulting.
- Ute Country Connection.com: 719-687-2172 or www.UteCountryConnection.com. Community website.

Book review

Considering home school option?

by Kathy Hansen

Being a parent is tough. It's probably the most important education possible can be a challenge for a myriad of reasons and factors. Good teachers can be hard to find, especially in Colorado which ranks 42nd in teacher wages. Private schools can be expensive and require long commutes. What about the option for home schooling? Where does one begin?

Lisa Powell authored an incredibly comprehensive book entitled, *Home Education For People Who Don't Practice It*. The book is intended to provide answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about home schooling. The answers are objective and non-biased; Lisa takes great care in respecting that each family is unique, has their own needs, values, and priorities.

Lisa had taught in public school setting for several years before she became a parent. Her background helps the reader understand the obligation the school system has to support the students within a district and helps the reader understand how to navigate the system.

There is an entire chapter on law. She begins at the federal level and moves the reader to learn about the laws applicable by state. She even touches on truancy and how laws are enforced.

There is a very interesting chapter, *Disabilities and Health* that I would recommend to any parent who has such considerations. She covers how kids get evaluated; in some situations a teacher may spot an issue a parent may miss and conversely, how a parent may pick up

on something subtle as they spend more time than a teacher of a larger class possibly could. There are also pros and cons to consider about "tagging" a student with a condition and various ways that can play out. The argument of whether home schooled children get sick more or less frequently is an interesting read.

Perhaps what was most impressive was to learn how many support materials and curricula there are available. Lisa includes a brief description without becoming a catalogue commentary. It was surprising to learn how many options there are for the student who may need a little extra help in a particular subject, like math.

There is a section on *Testing and Evaluation* and *Post-secondary education* that were each very interesting. It was good to know there are resources available for the parent to assure they are on-track with their home schooling program, as well as being able to identify strengths and weaknesses that need tending to. Customizing the curriculum to foster a particular area of interest is an option the home schooler may have more than in the traditional classroom.

Best of all, Lisa provides the reader with 10 pages of

Home Education For People Who Don't Practice It

Lisa Powell



resources.

Parents who are curious about home schooling can certainly learn a lot from reading *Home Education For People Who Don't Practice It* by Lisa Powell. The book can be found on Amazon.com.



Fundraiser at Summit

Kiwanis K-Kids (Young Leaders Helping Others) at Summit Elementary held a fundraiser of selling donuts and coffee before school to support the Colorado Blue Shield Project Team. The mission of this project is to provide protective gear to local law enforcement to be safe while on duty. The K-Kids presented their donations to Teller County Sheriff's Department on Nov. 29, 2016.

New Certified Diabetes Educator at HRRMC

Jon Fritz, wellness supervisor at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, recently became a Certified Diabetes Educator® (CDE®). Fritz successfully completed the certification exam for diabetes educators administered by the National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE). Candidates must meet rigorous eligibility requirements to be able to take the exam.



Currently, there are about 19,000 diabetes educators who hold NCBDE certification. It is estimated that there are 1,600 diabetes patients to every one CDE.

Certified Diabetes Educators provide one-on-one sessions and group classes to help individuals with diabetes or prediabetes better understand how food, medicine, activity, and illness interact and change over time. The CDE educates and supports people affected by diabetes to understand and manage the condition. These classes are usually covered by insurance.

HRRMC hosts diabetes self-management education classes the first four Mondays of even months (excluding December) from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the hospital's second-floor conference rooms. For more information or to register for a class, contact Jon Fritz at 530-2057 or jon.fritz@hrrmc.net.

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American Legion Post 171 Serves youth and elderly during holidays

by Steven Wade Veatch and Rich Ingold

November and December are busy months for the Cripple Creek-Victor American Legion Post 171 as they serve the Gold Camp in several important ways.

The Post's work started early Thursday morning, November 10, 2016 at the Cripple Creek – Victor High School when students, faculty, and veterans arrived for the annual Veteran Day convocation. Following the opening ceremonies, members of the post addressed the assembly with messages of patriotism and service to both America and the community. The students were told "To be born free is an accident, to live free is a responsibility, and, to die free is an obligation. So use your hard-won freedom to make good life choices."

The juniors were reminded to submit their applications for the upcoming American Legion Boys and Girls State Scholarship program.

After the convocation, the Post 171 members visited the grade school where they handed out poppies.

The Post's Christmas season kicked off



Post 171 members Ready to address the assembly.



Mount Up!

with Santa (a Post member) leading the first annual Teller County Toy Run on October 9, 2016. No less than 130 bikers with presents and cash joined Santa for the cause. The ride started in Divide, Colorado and concluded at the District Museum in Cripple Creek.

In addition to the unwrapped toys, Santa also raised over \$5,350 in cash donations for the effort. The toys will be distributed to kids at the Cripple Creek-Victor High School at 5 p.m., December 22, 2016. Toys will also be included in food baskets and given to the Police Department to take with them on domestic calls.

Santa and the Post 171 elves will be providing gifts to veterans in the Cripple Creek Wellness Center. Santa will distribute the Post's presents to veterans along with non-veteran gifts purchased by the Elks.

Santa will also be at the District Museum in Cripple Creek on the weekends between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Post 171 members will be serving hot chocolate and cider at the same time. This is a perfect time to visit Santa, take a tour of the museum, and stop by the District Museum's gift store. The District Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the Holiday Season.



Students, faculty, and veterans assemble for the Veterans Day Convocation at the high school.



Toys for Teller Tots

Dee-Ann Troutman recognized as hospital TRAC STAR

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center named Dee-Ann Troutman of Salida its TRAC STAR of the third quarter at a hospital ceremony on Nov. 7, 2016. TRAC STAR is an acronym for the core values that guide HRRMC employee performance: team-work, recognition, attitude, customer service, safety, talent, accountability and respect.

Troutman is a certified nursing assistant and endoscopy tech in HRRMC's Surgical Services Department. She has worked for HRRMC for 20 years. According to her nomination, "Dee-Ann is the anchor in the endoscopy suite, always available to come in on her time off to help when needed. She has often left evening social activities with friends and/or family to come in to assist when the on-call staff needed her expert help...To say the least, we have never worked with an endoscopy technician who measures up to Dee-Ann's standard of excellence."

Hospital CEO Bob Morasko presented Troutman with a \$200 gift check, a fleece jacket with the hospital's TRAC logo, and a certificate to be professionally photographed. A plaque with her photo will be displayed in the hospital café.

Morasko also acknowledged the two other finalists for the quarterly award, Vinnie Okada and Marcie Contreras, both of Salida.

Okada, a systems analyst in the Information Systems Department, was praised by the employee who nominated him for his "steady, calm demeanor," and for excelling "in the talent category — many times in ways that cannot even be described to folks outside of information systems. In general, Vinnie is innovative and creative with his wide breadth of technical knowledge."

Contreras, a cook in the Dietary Department, "...comes to work each day with her friendly game face on," according to



HRRMC CEO Bob Morasko congratulates TRAC STAR finalist Marcie Contreras (L) and winner Dee-Ann Troutman at a hospital ceremony. Finalist Vinnie Okada was unable to attend the ceremony.

her nomination. "Her infectious personality makes working with her a pleasure and her presence helps lift morale in the entire department. She is a perfect example that attitude is a personal choice and brings her best to work every day."

HRRMC employees can nominate any of their colleagues for the TRAC STAR award. Members of the hospital's Communications Team review all nominations, and then cast individual ballots to determine the three finalists and the winner. All finalists are eligible to be named TRAC STAR of the Year.

Loving Life

by Cheryl LaCock

My knees creak

My muscles ache

It's almost more
than I can take

My eyes are weak

There's no mistake

I'm getting old,
for heaven's sake

My neck has
a crick

My skin's
too thin

Sometimes I feel like I just can't win

The aches and pains are worth the gains

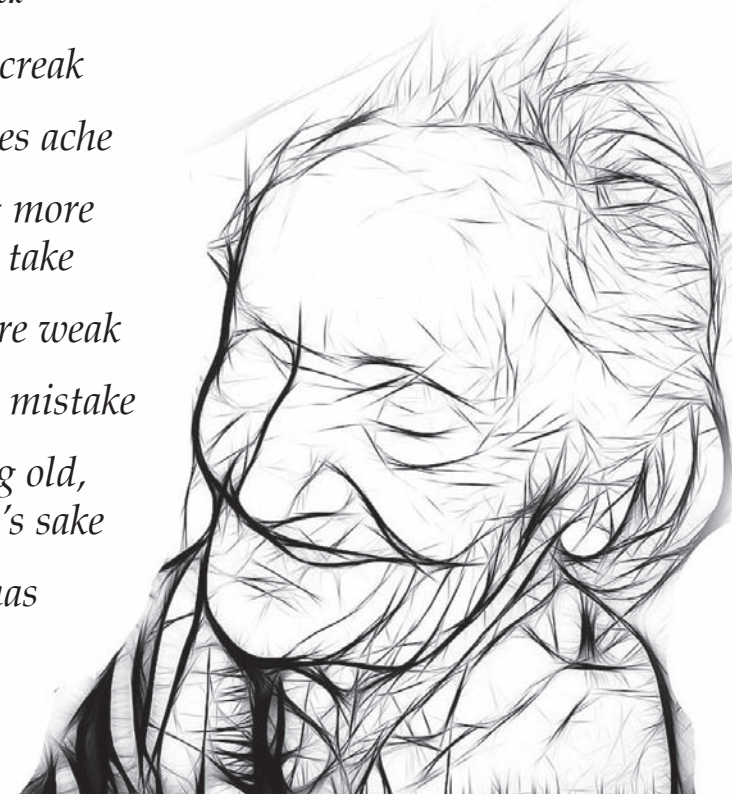
Every sunrise is a beautiful rebirth

Of another day on God's green Earth

Getting old sucks and that's no lie

But I'm still not ready to die!

This is the first poem Cheryl wrote since she was under 30 years old. Thank you for sharing your latest creative endeavor!



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Far View Horse Rescue

by Flip Boettcher

Far View Horse Rescue, located as it is, on 40 acres between U.S. Highway 285 and Colorado Highway 9 several miles south of Fairplay, does indeed have a far view.

On November 5, 2016 a Volunteer and Rescue Appreciation day with 40 volunteers telling stories of their hard work, rescued horses and homes found for those horses took place. Eight world-famous Budweiser Clydesdale horses made a surprise visit to the event.

The Clydesdales, pulling a big red wagon, were leading a flatbed pickup truck loaded with two tons of Purina horse feed donated by Purina Animal Nutrition to FVHR as part of their sponsorship of A Home for Every Horse program. The Budweiser Clydesdales have a "longstanding relationship with Purina and are exclusively fed Purina feed," said a Purina press release.

FVHR is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization "dedicated to providing shelter, care, rehabilitation and adoption services for abused, neglected, abandoned and unwanted horses. FVHR is committed to reducing the number of unwanted horses by providing community resources through equine education, information and referral services," stated the mission statement on the Far View website: www.farview-horserescue.com.

The FVHR vision statement is to "Find our rescued horses successful partnerships with new owners, through caring youth and adult volunteers plus horsemanship education," stated the website. FVHR accomplishes their goals with many youth and adult volunteers, and volunteers are always needed.

A Home for Every Horse was started in 2011 as a result of a partnership between the Equine Network, the leading publisher of *Equine News*, and The American Horse Council's Unwanted Horse Coalition. The program helps to connect horses needing homes in over 600 rescues across the United States with people looking for horses. This program is a good resource for 501 non-profit horse rescues. FVHR was chosen from the 600 horse rescues for this gift.

To date, Purina has, "donated more than 800 tons of horse feed to help rehabilitate horses across the country through our sponsorship of A Home for Every Horse," said Purina Animal Nutrition Director of Lifestyle Marketing James Kinnear in the Purina press release. "We are pleased to offer this gift to Far View Horse Rescue and hope it helps the organization continue to make such a positive impact on the horses and volunteers involved," Kinnear added.

Purina Animal Nutrition LLC is headquartered in Shoreview, Minnesota and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Land O' Lakes, Inc. Purina is "an industry-leading innovator offering complete feeds, supplements, premixes, ingredients and specialty technologies for



the livestock and lifestyle animal markets," stated the press release. Purina has over 4,700 local cooperatives, independent dealers and other large retail stores across the country.

Purina video-taped the delivery of the two tons of horse grain by the Clydesdales. One can view the video on the Far View website.

"Every horse deserves a good home. When we can find new homes for rescued horses, it makes everything worthwhile," says Page Van Meter, lead volunteer for FVHR. "We couldn't do all of this without the help of our youth and adult volunteers and the support of programs such as A Home for Every Horse and Purina Horse Feed."



Native Plants of the Ute Country Piñon Pine *Pinus edulis*

by Mary Menz
photos by Mary Menz



The Piñon Pine cones start out green and mature into lovely brown roses (left). The needles are usually found 2 per fascicle or "sheath."
The closed cone still houses the nutritious nuts (center).
The Piñon Pine is a conical shaped conifer that can reach 20-30 feet tall, but is usually much smaller in Ute Country (right).

Winter is a great time to admire the beauty of conifer trees. The conifers of the Ute Country include spruce, fir, and pine and each is unique in the form of its seed cones and needles. Without the distractions of the colorful, spring and summer blooming native plants, winter provides a time to admire and study the "brown roses" of the conifers.

The Piñon Pine is a favorite of conifer lovers. It occurs in elevations that range from 4500' to 9500'. At higher elevations it is less common, but can be found in sunny, dry microclimates.

As the Latin name implies, *edulis* means edible. Piñon comes from the Spanish word for pine. The Piñon Pine is a favorite food source of humans, small mammals, and birds. While this conical shaped pine can grow to

more than 20 feet, they are often small in the Ute Country, making it easy for humans to harvest the cones for their seeds — that is, if you can get to them before the other animals.

Tasty seeds for humans and animals alike

Piñon Jays (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*), members of the Corvidae family of Crows and Stellar's Jays, heavily depend on the seeds of the Piñon Pine. It's also a favorite food source of other jays, woodpeckers and squirrels. Turkey, black bear, porcupine, woodrats, and even the Abert's squirrel, who relies on the Ponderosa Pine nuts as its primary food source, is known to indulge in the tasty Piñon Pine seeds when stumbled upon.

Birds and small mammals alike cache the Piñon Pine seeds for consumption later in the season. Studies reveal that Clark's Nutcrackers also love the Piñon Pine nuts and have been observed carrying and caching seeds of the Piñon Pine as far away as 14 miles from their source. While most caches are depleted by the industrious animals in cold winter months, the remnants are often a source of new seedlings in spring.

The Piñon Pine continues to be a staple food source for native tribes of the Southwestern states. The low hanging branches of this pine make collecting the cones easy. They can be shaken or picked from the boughs when green. When they dry out and open, the nuts can be retrieved for oven-roasting or pan-toasting.

The seeds are a high calorie food source. One starving survivor of a search team who set out to rescue the Donner Party in 1846 was fed Piñon Pine nuts by the native people who found him. He was one of only a third of the men who survived that cold winter in the Sierras. Now, Piñon Pine nuts are a fall treat to anyone who can find the savory roasted nuts sold on the roadside or in gourmet food shops.

The nuts of the Piñon Pine are excellent in many dishes — savory or sweet. For some good recipes, visit www.piñons.com/recipes/.

Mary Menz is a naturalist and Colorado Native Plant Master. She loves to search for — and find — native plants. You can reach her at snowberryblossom@gmail.com.

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Guffey gets gas

Guffey propane up and running

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher



The long, black epoxy covered 18,000 gallon propane tank is in the ground and ready for the pea gravel and fill-dirt.

Beginning in December, the Guffey area will have an operational propane distribution site built and operated by Affordable Fuels out of Elizabeth, Colorado. The acre and a half site is located just north of Guffey on the top of Gold Hill on property owned by local resident Bill Betz. The site is not visible from the county road. Betz has been trying for a number of years to bring more affordable propane and better service to the Guffey area.

In the months-long process to get Park County Commissioners' approval for the propane site, Betz had to get community support and support of the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District. The commissioners approved the site in October of this year.

The SPCFPD board of directors had a special meeting addressing the propane site and community concerns in December, 2015. Affordable Fuels' co-founder, president and CEO Gary Guagenti attended the meeting to address concerns and answer questions. Also at the meeting was Glen Slanaker, owner and installer of Loveland Meter Service, who is installing the tank. James Richardson, co-founder, Vice President and driver for the company was unable to attend the meeting.

The 18,000 gallon tank will be underground and is only ever filled to 85 percent like a household tank, said Slanaker. The tank is approximately 10 feet wide by 40 feet long and is covered in black epoxy. The top of the tank will be 18 inches underground and the tank will be filled underneath and all around with 10 to 12 inches of pea gravel and then filled with dirt, added Slanaker. According to Betz, a tank of this kind should be operational for 50 years.

The road to the site has been widened to 20 feet to accommodate the 3,400 gallon service trucks, the 8,500 gallon delivery trucks and any fire vehicles if necessary. There will only be filling of the underground tank and service trucks at the site. No private filling will be available.

With site safety being an issue, Slanaker

said there were many backups and safety features with propane, a flammable gas. Some of the safety features include double locking hose connections and interior tank locking valves that only open with nitrogen gas. There is also lots of insurance required and training for anyone working with propane, Slanaker said.

"Being underground," said Slanaker, "really eliminates any possibility of a tank rupture. If that unlikely event were to happen, being heavy, the propane would sink and with no air, there could be no fire." There is only one manhole cover in the top of the tank with all the hoses passing through it.

All of Affordable Fuels' trucks are inspected yearly. All drivers need a Commercial Driver's License and Hazmat (hazardous materials) classes. Anyone who handles propane has to also pass a special safety class called CTAP, said Slanaker.

At the meeting Guagenti said the company is very dedicated and customer service orientated. Guagenti said the company wanted to hire a full time driver from the area and establish a monthly route. The company would use the tank site as a hub for the area deliveries.

According to a recent email from Betz, Affordable Fuels is still looking to hire someone. "It's a good company to work for and they will treat you with respect," he added. If you are interested, call the office at 719-493-3121.

"Having our own local propane site will have advantages for our community. It will provide lower pricing and service that other propane companies will have to meet if they want to service this area," said Betz.

Betz started his propane campaign by getting the propane companies together at a town hall meeting to establish the best group rate every year. People were not obligated to accept the rate and could continue to use whatever propane company they wanted. Betz would like to see these yearly meetings continue, but he can no longer organize them because of a conflict of interest.

Adopt Me

by Ark-Valley Humane Society

Sammy

Sammy is a 2-year old Domestic Shorthair mix cat who is FIV and FeLV positive. This means he has Feline Aids and Feline Leukemia, BUT... before you assume that he's on a hundred medicines and in poor condition, let me stop you. Other than his diagnosis, he's perfectly healthy and acts like a normal, playful two year old cat! He LOVES dogs so although he needs to be the only cat and live indoors, he is not contagious to canines and would really prefer to have a dog brother or sister. He's playful, snuggly, and loves taking naps right next to you (or on you) while you relax. He's mellow and easy-going and is an all-around amazing cat. Would you consider adopting him and giving him the home he deserves?

Sammy's adoption fee is waived in hopes of finding his new family! Learn more about Sammy at Ark Valley Humane Society at 701 Gregg Drive in Buena Vista, or call 719-395-2737.



Reflections

by David Martinek

As 2016 nears to a close, we are greeted with a season that always cheers us at the end of every year — Thanksgiving and Christmas. Perhaps, by design, these holidays give us an opportunity, after troubling months, to reflect on things more important to us than elections, politics and adversity. The three short essays below are a reflection on one of the blessings I consider important in my life — living the mountains.

The Waterfalls of Cascade

They have romantic names. Tumbling out of the foothills about five miles west of Manitou Springs below Pikes Peak, and emptying into Fountain Creek, rippling waters "cascade" over rocks and ledges to create a series of waterfalls that named a town. Names like Crystal Spray, Fairy Falls, Lullaby Falls, McGregor Falls, Peek-a-boo Falls, Silver Cascade, Souvenir Falls and The Stairway are all waterfalls that converge about halfway down Ute Pass and around which the town of Cascade (formerly Cascade Canon) was founded in 1886. Truth be known, there are waterfalls all up and down Ute Pass.



An historic photo of the Silver Cascade waterfall. (Denver Public Library)

Because of the descent in elevation of nearly 3,000 feet from the summit in Divide, it is inevitable that the waters of Catamount, Crystola, Fountain and Wellington Creeks would flow through the declining landscape with dramatic results. The small falls around Cascade, and her sister towns of Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls, may not have been the most popular, compared to Rainbow Falls in Manitou Springs or Seven Falls in Colorado Springs, but they are no less beautiful.

The waterfalls around Cascade can still be explored today if you are willing to hike up the foothills to see them. In the Ute Pass area, we are only a waterfall away from our history.

Going to Work in the Morning in Summer - a Fantasy

Stepping out the front door of my cabin north of Divide and heading for the garage, I'm greeted by two rather inquisitive chipmunks scampering around. Unlike the cartoon munks from the movies (i.e., Alvin,

Simon and Theodore); these are the real thing. They have dark brown stripes down their backs, are about four inches long and appear nervous. I have done favors for them in the past by putting out water or dropping small chunks of lettuce or nuts for them to eat. They've appreciated it and greet me most mornings with a cautious welcoming smile. But, they fear the god that I am to them and wisely dart into a hole as I pass by.

Backing out of my garage, it's only a short distance to the paved road running through the former Lazy K ranch heading toward Divide. Circling around the second "S" curve from the Spring Valley entrance, a couple of female mule deer look up from their morning breakfast. Deer are normally well accustomed to human contact, particularly to passing cars, so they brave the roadside for personal consumption — the grass is greener there. But if you slow and peer closely at them, their little heads will jerk up in an "OMG, run Delores!" look on their frantic little faces as they disappear into the trees.

Up ahead just beyond the last curve the cow conference seems to have broken up. Usually, when I start for work a little earlier, I often come upon such a conference in session in the meadow just across the fence. Here's the scene: There's a group of cows lying down in somewhat of a semi-circle, all facing the same direction, while a couple of other cows are standing very importantly in the middle facing the group, relating the morning's instructions, I imagine. But on this morning, I was a bit late so the meeting was over and individuals were wandering off to selected spots to begin their daily grazing, their calves bounding behind. Others were busy talking in small clichés and looking over their shoulders, for what reason I do not know. I'm not that current on their social networks.

The rollercoaster ride that is County Road 5 north of Divide consists of a series of eleven ridges running east and west across which the road spans perpendicularly north and south. My drive this morning, and every morning, is always a series of ascents and descents, up and down, as I leave the aspen and pine trees near the National Forest and enter the broad meadows leading to U.S. 24 — meadows where seed potatoes and iceberg lettuce once grew back in the '20s and '30s. I can still see the terraces in some of the fields from those times. Understanding what these landmarks mean, and what happened here in the past, makes living here so much more meaningful — and that is no fantasy.

My deep thought is interrupted by an enormous, four-footed animal in the middle of the road, causing me to screech to a stop. Elk appear to be some of the stupidest critters on the earth, although they are quite clever. But, every time I see one, especially when a group of cows are parked on the road, I'm reminded of Edgar Bergen's puppet character, Mortimer Snerd. They are the largest species of deer in the world, aside from the moose, and I'm convinced they don't see cars as a danger, but rather some kind of other creature they haven't learned to fear yet. Or, perhaps they're just confused. Anyway, this female elk (the males stay in the woods) is just standing there in the middle of the road looking at me with an "aw shucks" stare ("yep, yep, yep"). However, before I can yell something crude out the window, she hops gracefully over the fence with a look of oblique indifference that only her backside, tail up, can ad-



This view down upper Ute Pass from Crystola shows the broadening of the canyon into the beginning of meadows and tree-dotted ridgelines. photo by David Martinek

equately express. They are handsome beasts; but is there a lot upstairs?

Finally, the morning wouldn't be complete without running upon a large colony of ground squirrels, or prairie dogs, poking their heads up above the ground across acres of pasture, or racing between holes that connect a vast network of underground tunnels. Many can be seen licking up the salt from the rocks along the roadside. Some even run across the road ahead of my car, then pause, and stand up to think about their situation, change their minds and dart back where they came from. Indecisive creatures, some unfortunately don't make it. But alas, I've heard that all the good ones go to prairie dog heaven to be reincarnated as human "busy-bodies." I'll bet you didn't know that.

The stop light at Divide is just ahead. Time to come back to reality and start a new day. Oh well...



One of several chipmunks that greet me in the morning of summer as I step out of my cabin. photo by David Martinek

An Anthem to Ute Pass.

Driving west up the canyon of Ute Pass from Colorado Springs, the geologic history of the Pikes Peak region is revealed in the rocks, if you know what to look for. Sandstone and red rock striations mark the beginning of your journey up the Pass from Manitou Springs, followed by pink granite cliffs that characterize the distinctive signature of the Pikes Peak foothills. Along the road runs Fountain Creek, still carving the landscape with its fingernail.

Obscured by highway widening and erosion, the old "Midland" railroad grade and several tunnels can be seen on the south side of the Pass. But as you reach the broadening ridges on either side of Cascade, the view spreads out into meadows and trees exposing quaint communities of mountain culture. Cascade, Chipita Park and Green Mountain Falls lead you to the Teller County line where the billboards stop and conservation

But anyone who lives here knows there is more here than the gold mining, a majestic view of Pikes Peak, the alpine atmosphere or the preponderance of Ponderosa and Douglas Fir trees dotting the countryside. More than the beauty of a million wild flowers blooming in colorful eruptions when Spring finally arrives in June. More than a need to slow down along a country road to let the elk pass from one meadow to another. No, instead, it is ALL these things. It is a feeling, too, perhaps undefinable, that instinctively and peacefully refreshes our spirit and inspires our soul, changing us, changing you...forever.

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Reiki Heaven and Earth

Distance healing and Reiki

by Olga Daich

I took three years of acupuncture classes; I was amazed to learn about acupuncture meridians. Learning how our emotions affect our body’s energy, how the energy (called “chi” in some cultures) feeds each organ in our body, and how we are deeply connected with the natural elements was enlightening. A phrase coming from my instructor stuck deep in my mind: “A good doctor of acupuncture is not one who will stick a hundred needles in a patient’s body but one who can help the healing process with only one needle.” He was talking about the power of the intention, I never forgot that statement. Today I think I can say we don’t even need a single needle to start a healing process; what is in our hearts is what makes the difference. The intention and love are the most powerful “tools” we can use to start a healing process.

I am not saying that you shouldn’t go to the doctor if you are sick. There are different tools you can use to heal your body if you are ill. Traditional doctors, doctors of acupuncture, holistic doctors and so on. It is your choice to follow the path that you feel is right for you.

I truly believe our body can be affected by our emotions. There are many books that teach us about the connection between emotions and illness as there is a lot to say about that. May I invite you to do your own research about the subject, and whichever path you choose for your healing process, keep in mind that your body is responding to your emotions. Look deep inside yourself; each emotion will affect your body for bad or for good.

My intention here is to share with you my experience in a healing process. The story I will share with you today is very close to me since this happened to my dad.

My dad has always been a very healthy and energetic man. He loves playing tennis, hiking in the mountains, riding motorcycle, and other things that most men at his age (he is 78 years old) don’t do anymore. I can say he has a young spirit within him.

I was born in Colombia and after getting my Physical Therapist degree, I decided to move to Venezuela, the country where my

dad was living. Then, in 2009 I came to the USA, leaving behind my dad and most of my brothers and sisters; we are a total of 13.

For years, my relationship with my dad was “normal” but then some things happened and our relationship changed. At some point I decided to stay away from him. By that time I was working on getting my workshop ready, “Heaven and Earth”. This workshop was created to teach about energy, chakras, electromagnetic fields in our body, sacred geometry, healing techniques, Reiki and more concepts, all connecting the spiritual world and science.

I worked on this project for two years. I was blessed to meet a beautiful soul; her name is Maria, who was my partner in this project. I found out we have the same background, she is also a Physical Therapist, she studied acupuncture, floral therapy and Reiki.

Today I think I can say we don’t even need a single needle to start a healing process; what is in our hearts is what makes the difference.

After two years, we had the workshop ready. At that time, still my relationship with dad wasn’t the best. However, knowing he likes spiritual teachings, I decided to invite him.

He came to our workshop and I will always remember him sitting in the front row taking notes on everything. That warmed my heart.

The two-day workshop was an amazing experience for all of us. At the end of the workshop, all the participants came to thank us and ask questions. Then I saw my dad coming my way. He had tears in his eyes, he told me “Thank you, daughter, coming here today has been the best gift in my life; I didn’t realize I have been sleeping all my life”.

Our relationship changed. We now share a strong connection. There is no more Karma

between us; we healed our relationship. We now share Dharma, which involves a loving relationship.

Around four years ago, I received a phone call from my dad’s wife. She told me that my dad was sick. He went from having a bad headache to being hospitalized in only 24 hours. His kidneys were failing. He had a blood infection. His liver was also having trouble. It seemed that his organs were shutting down.

It was impossible for me to go to Venezuela at that time. However, since I knew the best doctors and nurses in the city (I worked there for 26 years), I started making phone calls to provide for my dad the best medical care he could get.

My dad was getting worse. My best friend Maria went to see him. She told me that she didn’t believe he would survive. Since his kidneys were failing, the doctors told my family that he needed dialysis and moved him to ICU, thinking he may need breathing assistance. Having worked as an ICU respiratory therapist, I knew what that would mean for my dad.

I knew the doctors were doing all that they could to help him, but I also knew that my dad was dying.

I was feeling so helpless. During these five or six days, my focus was to provide him with the best medical care and I didn’t even think about sending Reiki to him. You may be wondering why? ...I don’t know the answer. I guess my fear and worry distracted me and blocked my faith.

I went to my special room in my house. I wanted to be alone. I wanted to pray. While I was praying, Reiki finally came to my mind, so I prepared the room and myself for a distance Reiki session.

I started with breathing relaxation, then I was trying to clear out all my thoughts, it was not easy. After a while I began to feel calm and relaxed, so I started the Reiki.



What I clearly remember is feeling the love coming from the hearts of all my brothers and sisters to our dad. I remember becoming the channel of that love to our dad.

I finished the Reiki and went to bed. I didn’t tell anyone about the Reiki distant healing.

The next morning, I called my dad’s wife as I did every day since he got sick. This is what she said, “Olga I don’t understand this, but this morning when I went to see your dad in the ICU he told me, ‘Olga was here last night, I saw her coming through the door’, he didn’t say more, by that time he could barely speak.” Still, I didn’t tell her about the Reiki, but I knew we were blessed.

My dad began a miraculous recovery. What helped my dad to get his health back? The reader is free to think it was because of the medical care or because of the Reiki healing, or maybe both. I choose to think it was because of both; for me Reiki boosted the healing process, becoming in a blessing tool to help the doctor job.

Today my dad is back to his routine activities. He is playing tennis, hiking the mountain, and riding his motorcycle again.

As I say in my last article (see November 2016 issue of *Ute Country News* page 13) quantum physics brings the connection between the spiritual and physical world. Three of the quantum physics principles explained to me how distance healing works are: There is no time and space; a particle can be in different places at the same time; and all particles are connected.

If you have any questions or want to contact me for a Reiki appointment you can reach me by email: olgacely@hotmail.com, please write REIKI as a subject in your email. Namaste.

Kat House Liquor & Splendid Pleasures

Antiques, Art and Alcohol

by Kathy Hansen

photos by Jeff Hansen

Sometimes it’s the weirdest combinations that make the most sense. Who would have thought a liquor store could be the perfect balance to a resale shop of unique treasures?

“The liquor store puts the bread and butter on the table. The Splendid Pleasures side is the fun side; it’s where our passion lies,” gleamed Kathryn (Kat) Chandler, owner of the building located at 415 Victor Avenue in Victor, Colorado.

For about seven years the building’s storefront was an antique store before it was leased to a new manager who transformed it into a liquor store in 2011. Earlier this year, the management of the building reverted to the owner of the building, Kat, who revisited her passion of finding, staging, and reselling antiques, as well as other items of interest. She realized the space could really best serve both purposes.

She just had to convince her friend, Mona Campbell to be her partner on the Splendid Pleasures side.

Mona had been managing the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and wasn’t sure she really wanted to give it up; history is her passion.

Kat reminded Mona she has many passions, like making hats, collecting bling, and let’s not forget having that crafter’s eye for combining a few items to create an entirely new piece!

The first year of the new enterprise is going well! The pair enjoys finding new items for the shop as well as creating eye-catching displays for items they already had.

Wait until you see all the shiny “bling” pieces so nicely displayed in the series



Mona Campbell (left) and Kat Chandler (right)

of glass jewelry cases. Everything is so sparkly. Mona said, “Kids seem to be drawn to this case; they’ve been known to walk right into it!”

Really, there is a LOT to see in that cabinet. We counted eight spider pieces, a cameo collection, and no less than three tiaras. I laughed when I saw those.

Evidently, I’m not the only one. Kat said the last woman who laughed about the tiaras ended up buying one. It turns out the customer chuckled at why anyone would want one in this day and age, to which Kat quickly replied, “For bubble baths, of course!”

Sold! One tiara!

By the way, they also have an antique bath tub. The outside was copper construction, the inside was galvanized and it had a walnut rim. What a find!

One walk-through is not enough; it is simply not possible to see everything they have to offer all at once. You may end walking right past a door brandishing a mural of the Garden of the Gods painted by a local artist, Tracie Smith on the way through, but find it stops you dead in your tracks on the walk back. Tracie also has hand-painted ornaments on display — see photo on cover. It just may be that you are drawn to the porcelain kitchen tchotchke only to find your eye hops to a colorful collection of scarfs.

As you look through the vast assortment, your gaze is captured by an array of brightly colored shawl wraps, blankets, and ponchos. Splendid Pleasures carries a line of finely woven articles created by Blessings From Ecuador. I dare you to look at them and not touch. Go ahead; try it! They are SO irresistibly soft. Accessorize the scarf with a Tagua nut necklace. The same line also offers handmade bags, totes and backpacks. Examine the quality crafty-work for yourself.

The best surprise is the prices in the store are incredibly reasonable. A tight budget could go far here and the likelihood that you’d find something for even the most difficult to buy for on your shopping list is high.

You will have fun poking around Splendid Pleasures and discovering all the interesting treasures. There is plenty to see, there’s music playing in the background setting a peaceful mood, and there is Kat and Mona who are fun people to be around. They each have upbeat personalities, an



Shiny “bling” pieces are nicely displayed in the series of glass jewelry cases in the Splendid Pleasures half of the store. The other half, as seen in the left portion of the above photo, is stocked with their customer’s favorite libations.

abundance of creative energy, and a great sense of humor. They truly are people-people who like to have fun.

I asked how they came upon the name Splendid Pleasures. Mona tilted her head, as if it should have been obvious, “Because we’re only going to sell things that bring us pleasure!”

She wasn’t referring to the wine or liquor,

but since you brought it up I should mention they are very good listeners and aim to please. They are willing to stock what customers request, so don’t be shy in asking for your favorite brands of beer, wine, or liquor. They’ll do their best to keep it in stock for you.

They are open every day from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



You can find a porcelain kitchen tchotchke (left), or a Tagua nut necklace, handmade bag, tote and backpacks created by Blessings From Ecuador (right).

IndyGive! Campaign in Teller County

The annual IndyGive! Campaign runs through December 31st. Teller County has three non-profits participating this year: Community Partnership, DayBreak, and TCRAS.

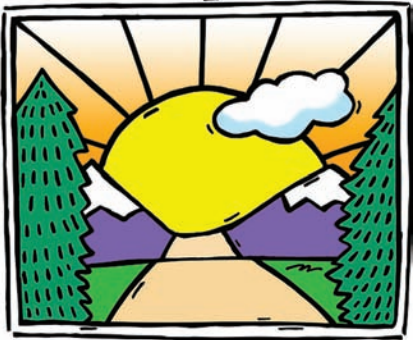


Community Partnership Family Resource Center

Come be a part of IndyGive and make a difference! It is with your support that CP-FRC continues to provide tools, skills and enrichment activities which strengthen families of Teller County as it has for the last 24 years. Help us reach our goal of \$10,000, and it will be matched by the Newmont America Cripple Creek/Victor Mine.

Within our community, risk factors ranging from job instability, transiency, and family conflict can all too easily lead to poverty, homelessness, and the deterioration of the family unit. Community Partnership Family Resource Center creates a safety net of agencies, programs, and resources to improve their odds, keeping families together and helping them thrive, become self-reliant, fully functional and positive contributors to our community.

Our programs lead to expanded education, work and income opportunities, stronger bonds between parents and children, and healthier lifestyles. Your contribution will help us find a new meeting space and grow our programs to meet the increased demand for services. Visit this site to donate: www.indygive.com/CPFRC



DayBreak
An Adult Day Program

DayBreak

We are ‘on the move’ at DayBreak – An Adult Day Program, and thrilled to be part of the IndyGive! Class of 2016. As the first, and only, respite care facility in Teller County, DayBreak provides respite care for caregivers and a day out for their loved ones. Donations from this year’s IndyGive campaign will support general operations at DayBreak, and provide program support for our newly implemented Mobile Community Connect Program. In August, DayBreak was fortunate to purchase a 15-passenger van with memorial contributions from former participant, Mrs. Helgi Oaks. The van enables DayBreak to transport participants to and from the program, and to various activities in, and around, Teller County — keeping community connections intact for DayBreak participants.

DayBreak serves individuals with Dementia, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Traumatic Brain Injuries, and/or those in need of minimal supervision and increased socialization to avoid isolation, depression, and dangerous situations. DayBreak has been providing a “home away from home” setting for par-

ticipants since May of 2015. Caregivers providing 24/7 care to loved ones deserve, and are in need of, respite support on a regular basis. DayBreak also offers education and support to the caregiver, while providing their loved one with new, yet familiar, opportunities for socialization, stimulating activities, community engagement, and intergenerational connections. Visit this site to donate: www.indygive.com/daybreak



TCRAS

So many of us consider our pets part of our family. They give us unconditional love, acceptance and support. We know we have to be their advocates and voices, since they aren’t able to speak for themselves. When we hear about an animal who is lost, needing a home, or in pain, we want to help.

At TCRAS, we believe every animal deserves love, good health and the best life possible. One of our programs is the Mighty Medical Fund — for animals that need special medical care. In addition to these funds, we also utilize community support, the help of our local vets, our incredible staff and our volunteers to rescue and rehabilitate animals, including those that otherwise would not have a chance at life. It is YOUR SUPPORT that makes all of our work possible! Generous donations from people like you allow us to continue helping animals get a new “leash” on life! When you donate through the Give! Campaign, your support allows us to earn

even MORE money in matching grants — making a BIG DIFFERENCE in the lives of animals in the Pikes Peak region. This year we hope to raise at least \$9,500 so that we can qualify for an additional \$9,500 in matching grants from some of our generous donors.

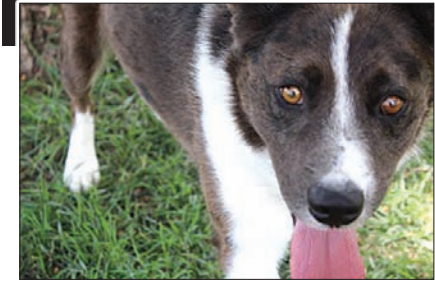
To see what kind of difference our Mighty Medical Fund can make, we’d like to introduce you to Marcella:

Marcella, a fun-loving puppy that was found with a severely damaged left front leg, was transferred to TCRAS so that she could get the medical help she needed. Through collaboration with local vets, we discovered her leg had neurological damage which caused her pain and meant that she could not use it. The leg began to atrophy, more x-rays were done and we even tried acupuncture, but nothing was helping. It was determined that the leg would have to be amputated. While in our care, we also discovered that Marcella was deaf. It was amazing what a happy, loving puppy she was — eager to connect to people and never letting anything slow her down. We knew she was a special dog and would need extra care and the right home and that she would make someone very happy. Now Marcella has been adopted and has a new name — Luna. She is doing very well and is getting special training to help with her inability to hear. She is still energetic and fun-loving and is an absolute joy to be around. She brightens the lives of everyone she meets!

To find out more about TCRAS and the animals you can help with your donation, please visit our website at www.tcrascolorado.org. To donate visit www.indygive.com/nonprofit/teller-county-regional-animal-shelter/

Adopt Me

by Humane Society of Fremont County



Meet Bond!

Hi I’m Bond. I’ve been at the shelter for a while now and would really like to find my perfect fur-ever home soon. I am a sweet Aussie/Catahoula mix. I am a very friendly boy who enjoys hanging out with people and getting belly rubs. Did I mention I passed all handling tests and walk nicely on a leash? Sure do! I am not very interested in balls or toys though. I would do best in a home without children, where I am the only one receiving all your love.

Think you and I may be the perfect fit? Call my friends at the Humane Society of Fremont County today at 719-275-0663 and tell ‘em you saw me in the paper!

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~OUT AND ABOUT~

Check out these activities going on right here in this area. If you know of an activity we should include, please call us at 719-686-7393 or email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com.

ALMA
17 Irma Community Christmas Party, Santa and Potluck. Santa arrives at 4 p.m., potluck dinner to follow. 719-836-2712.

BUENA VISTA
3 There is a special event in Buena Vista. It is Buena Vista Christmas opening on December 3. BV HOPE will have a table at the Watershed building 314 E. Main St and giving out Organic chocolates during the chocolate walk from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will be educating people that if they buy organic or fair trade chocolate they can stop the chocolate slavery cycle in our world today. The Equine parade brings Santa to town at 2 p.m. and heads through East Main to South Main. Santa will be available for free photos with the children at the Pinon Real Estate Building 306 East Main from 2:30 p.m. to 5:25 p.m. The Parade of Lights at 5:30 p.m. takes Santa to the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree in the Optimist Splash Park at the corner of Railroad and E Main at 6 p.m. The movie Polar Express (Sponsored by Pinon Real Estate) will be shown at noon and 6 p.m. allowing parents to shop. The Chili Cook-off will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. east of CKS at 327 E Main. Donate money to vote for your favorite chili (money goes to Buena Vista Heritage to maintain the museum). Local businesses will be having events throughout the day including a Holiday Art show at the Community Center. Rock Run Gallery will have a watercolor demo from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at 902 South Main. For more on the day's events check out the Buena Vista website www.buenvistacolorado.org/events/christmas-opening/

BUENA VISTA
9 & 10 Bethlehem Marketplace returns for the Christmas season December 9 and 10. Presented by Valley Fellowship Church, the walk-through drama is set in the crowded streets of Bethlehem the day following the birth of Jesus. Bethlehem's population has increased by those who have come to be taxed in Caesar's census, and the marketplace bustles with activity. Merchants crowd the marketplace with vendors selling their wares to profit from the influx of visitors. Beggars pursue those who have any money at all. Residents move about their businesses. Stern Roman soldiers seek to control the crowd. Hearts are humbled by the baby Jesus sleeping in the manger. This is not a play. Guests are immersed in the experience. This bi-annual presentation began in the early 1990's. Over 200 people representing over 1,800 man-hours are required for the production. Over 1,900 Coloradans attended in 2014, and this year's presentation promises to be bigger than ever. Valley Fellowship Church is located two blocks west of Highway 24 in Buena Vista. Turn west just north of the Brown Dog Roastery and look for the signs to 608 S. San Juan. Guests to this historic, walk-through drama are encouraged to arrive anytime between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and reminded that admission is free.

CA ON CITY
16 Fremont County Commodity Supplemental Food Program distribution the 3rd Friday each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Loaves & Fishes, 241 Justice Center Rd. Call Traci Trickett for more information 719-275-0593.
16 Fremont County The Emergency Food Assistance Program distribution at First United Methodist Church, 801 Main Street, 1:30 p.m. until gone. Call Erlin Trickett 719-275-4191 X111 for more information.

COTTONWOOD HOT SPRING LODGE
Thursday evenings at 6 p.m., a Spiritual Networking Group meets at the Cottonwood Hot Springs Lodge in Buena Vista to discuss issues of common interest and participate in a group meditation with a positive outcome. There is no fee for the meeting and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend. For more information, call Cathy or Robin at 719-395-6434. If you would like to bring a snack to share with a few other people, it will be appreciated.

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Halloween fun at Guffey Community Charter School

by Madison Piotrowski, 6th grader



This Halloween was a ton of fun for Guffey students. From picking pumpkins to carving pumpkins to getting loads of candy, thanks to the Guffey community. We sure put the spirit in Halloween spirit.

In the beginning of October we went to Colon Orchards to pick pumpkins, apples, and try some amazing cider. We had a chance to pick an apple from any tree which was a big surprise, because each apple was either as sweet as can be, or as juicy as can be. Then we were brought to a field full of pumpkins where we could choose a big plump pumpkin. Each student there came home from the orchard with a nice big pumpkin and a smile on their face.

After all the fun at the orchard our friends at the Freshwater set up a pumpkin carving activity. They had all the pumpkins already gutted and prepared to be carved. They also had carving designs and kits. While the older kids carved their pumpkins, the littler kids had paint, glitter, stickers, and puffy paint to design their pumpkin. Everyone enjoyed that very fun activity.

The very last thing we did was the most fun of all. We had a Halloween parade where we all got loads of candy. We went from the Guffey Garage, to the library, to the post office, to the Rolling Thunder Cloud Cafe. Then down to the Bull Moose where they had a party set up for us. They had pinatas and lots of treats. From there we went to the Freshwater and went through a scary maze. That gave everyone a good spook. After the maze we went back to school to trade candy. From there we all went our separate ways and had much much more fun on this spectacular Halloween. Thanks to everyone who made this best Halloween ever!

Second neurologist joins HRRMC

Yvonne Rollins, M.D., a neurologist with subspecialties in electrodiagnostic and neuromuscular medicine, has joined the medical staff at Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center. She will offer complementary services to fellow HRRMC neurologist, Suzanne Lesage, M.D.

Dr. Rollins provides general neurology care and also specializes in nerve conduction testing and electromyography (EMG), which measures the activity of muscles and nerves to determine if there is nerve injury or damage. People who experience numbness, pain, weakness, and low back or neck pain may be referred to Dr. Rollins for further evaluation.

Before joining HRRMC, Dr. Rollins worked at the Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She performed EMGs and provided general neurology services for inpatients and outpatients.

Prior to that, she was an assistant professor in the department of neurology at the University of Colorado, Denver, for four years. She was one of the department's neuromuscular specialists and clinical trial investigators.

Dr. Rollins earned her medical degree and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She also completed her internship in internal medicine, a residency in neurology, and a neuromuscular fellowship at the University of Colorado.

She acted as the principal investigator for a number of research studies on Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed medical journals on the disease. Dr. Rollins is a member of the American Academy of Neurology.

"We have found that neurology services are in very high demand in our area," said hospital CEO Bob Morasko. "Adding Dr. Rollins to our medical staff will expand the services that we are able to offer patients and make it easier to schedule an appointment with a local neurologist sooner."

Patients seeking neurology services can make an appointment with Dr. Rollins at the HRRMC Medical Clinics in Salida by calling 719-530-2000.

Adopt Me by Teller County Regional Animal Shelter

Kona

Hi. My name is Kona. I came into TCRAS as a stray. I am one great dog and I'll tell you why. I know my house manners. I get along with other dogs. Now all I need is a family and home to call my own. I'm about 4-years old, am a tan and white Retriever/Labrador mix, but that's just the outside of me.

Come on into TCRAS and ask to meet me. I'll show you what a great dog I am! TCRAS is at 308 Weaverville Road in Divide. If you don't know where that is, call the friendly staff at 719-686-7707; they're always happy to help.



~OUT AND ABOUT~

continued from page 34

NAMI
6,13,20,27 The NAMI Connections Support Group for adults living with a mental illness meets every Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Thomas More Hospital, 1338 Phay Ave., in the Community Education Room. The meetings are confidential and led by trained peers.

21 The NAMI Family Support Group for family members and caregivers of individuals living with mental illness meets on the third Wednesday of every month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas More Hospital, 1338 Phay Ave., in the Community Education Room. The meetings are confidential and led by trained family members. Contact Sherry at 719-315-4975 or NAMISoutheastco@gmail.com.

CASCADE
2 & 3 Cascade Christmas. Presented by the Cascade Women's Club, and hosted by Backroom Pizza. A new venue, the historic Red Cloud Inn, will add nostalgic charm to this year's event! Join us beginning Friday night, December 2nd from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. We will continue the festivities on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shop a wide variety of holiday arts and crafts. Our popular homemade cookie trays will be for sale. Enjoy live holiday music with Barry LaLuna!

COLORADO SPRINGS
4 The 21st Holiday Tour to Benefit the Old Colorado City Historical Society. Visit six sites of Historical Significance: Lennox House (Old North End), El Paso Club (Downtown), Old Town Guesthouse (Old Colorado City), Spurs and Lace (Old Colorado City), The Avenue Hotel (Manitou Springs), Blue Skies Inn (Manitou Springs) all from noon to 5 p.m. \$20 per person, purchase by phone or in person the Old Colorado City History Center, 719-636-1225, 1 South 24th Street, 80904. Advanced reservations requested. No ticket sales at sites. The day of the tour, pick up your tickets and maps at the History Center.

14 TCRAS at Happy Hour at the Bristol Brewery from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Information table and opportunities to donate to TCRAS.

CRIPPLE CREEK
10 Bennet Avenue Parade begins at noon down Bennet Avenue.
10 Baptist Church hosts the Colorado Springs Choral at 3 p.m.
31 New Year's Eve Celebration at Cripple Creek Elks Lodge – open to the public. Ring in the New Year with your Elks family and friends!

PARK N REC
10 The Cripple Creek Park and Recreation Department's annual Craft Fair is from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Going Classes:
• Aikido for Adults (Martial Arts), Mon & Wed 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., Tues 11 a.m. to noon, only \$5
• Archery Classes most Saturdays 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. by appointment, call to schedule
• Bible Study for Women Only, every Wed evening from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., FREE
• English as a Second Language, Call Michael 689-3514 for info
• Judo, Tues from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., only \$5
• Kidz 4 Kids Mon & Wed 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., only \$5
• Silver Sneakers Exercise Classes every Mon-Wed-Fri 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
• Zumba Classes, Mon and Thurs from 5:15 p.m. to 6 p.m., Only \$5
On Going Activities & Sports/Fitness:
• Adventure Service Club for Boys & Girls, Grades 1 to 6, Info call John 719-689-3514
• Archery - Competitive Tournaments for kids/youth 8 to 17, classes/coaching
• Archery Indoor Open Shooting, most Sat 10 a.m. to noon, call ahead, \$2
• Archery Outdoor Open Shooting, daily Sun-up to Sun-down, \$5 per month
• Day Care (KRU - Kids Rock University) Licensed Program ages 5 - 17, Mon - Fri
• Day Care (KRU) Special Friday Fun Field Trips once per month, call for details
• Knitting Club for Women, Mon from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., FREE
• Roller Skating/Blading Fri and Sat 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., call ahead, \$2
• Silver Sneakers Exercise Classes every Mon-Wed-Fri 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. free for qualifying seniors
• Youth Basketball starts in January, sign up in December
• We will be closed December 23 to 26, and January 1 & 2
• 27 to 30 and January 3 to 6 KRU Camp from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., January 1 & 15 Adventure Service Klub from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Rampart Library news

by Michelle Dukette

We have a busy December in store at the Rampart Library District.

Gingerbread House Contest
The City of Woodland Park is holding its annual Gingerbread House Contest. Entry categories include: Adult (16 and older), Youth (15 and under), Family/Team, and Professional. Homes can be constructed of gingerbread, candy, or any sweets. All decorations must be 100 percent edible. Dimension on the platform should be no more than 18" by 18". All entries must be brought to the Woodland Park Library on Friday December 2nd between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Entries will remain on display through Thursday, December 15th and should be picked up by Friday, December 16th by 1 p.m. Any houses remaining will be discarded.

Holiday Home Tour
This year marks the 18th Anniversary of the Tweeds Holiday Home Tour. This year's tour on Saturday December 3rd and Sunday December 4th is especially exciting as 15 percent of the proceeds have been awarded to the Woodland Park Library Teen Room, which will see a wonderful renovation in 2017. Please show your support of the library and the youth in our community by attending this wonderful event and touring the beautiful homes of Woodland Park. More information can be found, including ticket purchase, on the Tweeds Holiday Home Tour website at wpht.org.

Teen programs at WPPL
Our Teen Advisory Board has been busy this fall developing programs and suggesting new purchases for the District. For fun, they are building our annual Book Tree this year. Come on in to the library and appreciate their work.

The Teen Room at the Woodland Park Public Library will benefit from the proceeds

special friend, Sandy King, whose last term on the Rampart Library District Board of Trustees ends on December 31st. Sandy has served the Rampart Library District for a total 19 years, beginning in 1997 as a core member of a group of community participants who helped to form the future of our library district and played an instrumental role in making the new facilities in Florissant and Woodland Park become a reality. She is an active member of the Rampart Library District Foundation and served as Interim Director after the former Director, Anne Knowles, retired. If you happen to see Sandy out and about in town, please join me in thanking her for her wonderful contributions to our library and our community.

On Going Classes:
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On Going Activities & Sports/Fitness:
• Adventure Service Club for Boys & Girls, Grades 1 to 6, Info call John 719-689-3514
• Archery - Competitive Tournaments for kids/youth 8 to 17, classes/coaching
• Archery Indoor Open Shooting, most Sat 10 a.m. to noon, call ahead, \$2
• Archery Outdoor Open Shooting, daily Sun-up to Sun-down, \$5 per month
• Day Care (KRU - Kids Rock University) Licensed Program ages 5 - 17, Mon - Fri
• Day Care (KRU) Special Friday Fun Field Trips once per month, call for details
• Knitting Club for Women, Mon from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., FREE
• Roller Skating/Blading Fri and Sat 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., call ahead, \$2
• Silver Sneakers Exercise Classes every Mon-Wed-Fri 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. free for qualifying seniors
• Youth Basketball starts in January, sign up in December
• We will be closed December 23 to 26, and January 1 & 2
• 27 to 30 and January 3 to 6 KRU Camp from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., January 1 & 15 Adventure Service Klub from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

GED classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please call Katy to register 719-686-0705.

DIVIDE
5 & 19 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill - Food Pantry Distribution 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. For more info 719-322-7610 or email littlechapelfoodpantry@outlook.com

GED classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Please call Katy to register 719-686-0705.

MUELLER STATE PARK
The park is beautiful in all its seasons! Come on out to hike, snowshoe, ski or sled! Highlights of the programs for December include a Christmas Parade, and a Holiday Open House and geology talk! Bring the kids to see Santa on December 4th! On New Year's Day, join in the guided First Day Hikes!
4 Cabin Open House from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Catch some Christmas spirit at our Open House today! Holiday crafts, refreshments and Santa!
4 Nature's Ornaments from noon to 3 p.m. Let nature's beauty inspire your creativity! Make some holiday ornaments or crafts to take home.
4 Visit Santa at the Ponderosa Cabin from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
10 Geology Talk: Plate Tectonics from 10 a.m. to noon at the Visitor Center. Volunteer Naturalist Bob Hickey knows his geology inside and out!
25 Christmas Day. Enjoy the beautiful outdoors! The park is open but the Visitor Center will be closed.
1 January First Day Hikes! Start the

New Year out on the right foot! Join in a First Day Hike! Hike or snowshoe depending on the snowfall. A few different hikes will be offered, the first one at 9 a.m. Call the Visitor Center for details. Please call ahead to check on snow conditions for sledding and hiking. Mueller events are free; however, a seven dollar daily pass of \$70 annual vehicle park pass is required to enter the park. For more information, call the park at 719-687-2366.

TCRAS
10 Open House. Come to TCRAS Dec 10 for our Open House from noon to 3 p.m. For more information call 719-686-7707.
• The Divide Planning Committee (DPC) invites you to sign up on the website below if you reside or work in the Divide Region of Teller County. By signing up on this website you will receive notices for future meetings. See the DividePlanning.org website for

Technology
If you are thinking about taking the SAT or PSAT in the spring or anytime soon, the library has a database that could help you get ready for those important tests. Take a look at Learning Express on the library website, <http://rampartlibrarydistrict.org>, or ask for help at the reference desk to get logged into this database.

The Library will be offering a new round of computer classes beginning in January 2017 to include Computer Basics, Microsoft Word I and II, Excel I and II and Windows 10 part I and II. For registration call 719-687-9281 x102 or email maryanns@rampartlibrarydistrict.org.

Holiday movies, music and books
Now is the time to get into the festive spirit by coming to the library and checking out our holiday movies, movies and books. Don't wait to the last minute if you want to be able to view or listen to your favorite holiday DVDs or CDs. In addition to checking out library materials, the Friends of the Library will be having a special holiday book sale in December. It is a perfect opportunity to get a great deal on some beautiful gift books to give to that special bookworm in your life while helping us raise funds for new library materials and services.

Rampart Library District will be closed on Saturday, December 24 and Sunday, December 25 for the Christmas holiday and Saturday, December 31 and Sunday, January 1, 2017 for The New Year Celebration. A reminder to all of our library patrons that when Woodland Park Schools are closed due to inclement weather, the Rampart Library District is closed as well.

information on this committee.

FAIRPLAY

3 A Real Colorado Christmas, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Front Street. Visit Santa and tree lighting at 5 p.m. 719-836-2622 or www.visitfairplay.net.
3 Annual Holiday Bazaar at the Fairplay School Campus. Benefits Elder Elementary. 719-836-0895
8 Please join the South Park Chamber of Commerce business owners at our Holiday Mixer on Thursday, December 8th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at South Park Finishing Touches, 295 5th Street, Fairplay, CO. Cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. All proceeds collected will be donated to a local food bank. If you also bring food to donate and you will be entered into a drawing for a door prize.
10 22nd Annual Victorian & Cowboy Ball, doors open at 6 p.m., dancing at 7 p.m. \$35 per person, Fairplay-Victorian Hotel, 500 Main Street. 719-836-2622
16 Annual Fairplay Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Forest Service office on the corner of Hwy 285 and Hwy 9 at 8 a.m. For more information contact Kristen Meyer 719-836-3860 or kristenmeyer@fs.fed.us.

FLORENCE PIONEER MUSEUM
Weather permitting, the Florence Pioneer Museum and Research Center will stay open in December. The Veteran's Day Display will stay up through December 7. Come see many uniforms, medals, and pieces of equipment used in our past wars and conflicts. Suggested admission: \$3 per person, children under 12 free. To check on the museum hours, check our website: www.florencepioneermuseum.org.

JOHN C. FREMONT LIBRARY
December's Featured Artists: Cec Sullivan will be displaying her exhibit of underwater photography of Hawaiian lava flows.

Adult programs
1 Black Hills Energy - Colorado Electric (BHE-COE) Residential Rebate Programs & Energy Efficiency Tips with Mark James at 6 p.m. Mark will educate us on all available BHE-COE residential rebate programs that can save us electricity and money. The Energy Efficiency Tips portion of the program will explain low-cost/no cost energy efficiency tips that we can take to save electricity and money on the electricity bill.
6 Christmas Bird Count with Mark Peterson at 6 p.m. Learn about the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count and how you can participate. Mark will cover the history of the bird count, what to expect on the

continued on page 36

~OUT AND ABOUT~

continued from page 35

day of the count, and how to identify birds commonly seen in the area.

10 Art Reception for Cee Sullivan's Underwater Photography from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. You will be able to meet the artists. This reception is part of Florence's Second Saturday.

Clubs

- Vegan Book Club meets the first and third Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. The Vegan Book Club discusses veganism and topics related to veganism. Club President: Harriet Balhiser, harrietalbalhiser@bresnan.net
- Wool Gatherers meets every Wednesday at 10 a.m. The Wool Gatherers meet to yak, knit (or crochet or quilt), and have lunch! The group is BYOP. Bring Your Own Project. All levels welcome.

Youth programs

- Story Time meets every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. Join Ms. Debbie for songs, stories and crafts.
- 17 **Polar Express** Pajama Party at 2:30 p.m. We are going to watch the movie *Polar Express* (rated G, 100 mins), and read the original book. We'll also have hot cocoa and cookies! Kids can come in their pajamas.

Youth clubs

- Teen Group meets every Thursday at 3:45 p.m. Teens 6th to 12th grade are invited for crafts, games and fun. There is a new weekly theme. Snacks will be provided.

The John C. Fremont Library is located at 134 Church Ave. For more information call 719-784-4649.

FLORISSANT

4 Thymekeeper Spice Bags see page 2.

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Woodland Park
UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Old Curiosity Gift Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday year-round, from 10 to 3. Our Gift Shop is located in the Museum Center building — 231 E. Henrietta Avenue in Woodland Park. The shop offers an extensive selection of books and unique gift items, including Native American drums and art, and lots of handmade jewelry. Our 2017 Pictorial Calendar makes a wonderful gift and is available for \$12 + tax. The long-awaited, recently released books, *Discovering Ute Pass*, Volumes I and II, are available for \$21.99 + tax. All patrons receive a 10% discount in the Gift Shop, including reprint orders from our collection of over 4,000 photos of the Ute Pass area. Cash or checks only, please! If you have any questions, please contact us at: 719-686-7512.

website at www.thebullmoosene-guffey.com or call 719-689-4199.

FRESHWATER BAR & GRILL

We will be closed November 25 through Dec. 1. Reopens Dec. 2.

HARTSEL

11 Hartsel Community Center Hosting Santa's Arrival. Mark your calendars. Santa is making a special visit to Hartsel. The festivities start at 2 p.m. It's rumored Santa will be arriving by wagon this year. There'll be time for everyone to visit with Santa and stocking stuffers for all the good boys and girls...well even the naughty boys and girls! It all takes place at the Hartsel Fire Station on Valley Ave. The Community Center will be providing the entrée, but we need you to bring a side dish or dessert. Need more information? Contact us either at hartselcommunitycenter@gmail.com or 719-837-3033.

JEFFERSON

10 Jefferson Community Civic Association Presents: Christmas Potluck Dinner and Program at Jefferson Community Center, Potluck Dinner from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Free — just bring a dish to share. Holiday Program from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Musical entertainment, and visit from Santa. Bring your family and join in the celebration of this Christmas Season. JCA is collecting non-perishable food items for a local food bank. Please donate an item when you attend the Christmas Dinner and Program. Weather Permitting: If in doubt, please call: Helen Baker 719-836-0173 or Carol Smusz 719-836-1430.

LAKE GEORGE

23 Santa in Lake George - at Blue Door Wifi Cafe Friday, noon to 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS

11 Community Fellowship of Christians presents Christmas Musical "It's the most wonderful time of the year" at 10:30 a.m. See ad on page 9.

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 p.m.

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY

Story Times each Wednesday from 1:30 to 2 p.m.

MANITOU SPRINGS

28 One Nation Film Festival Screening Series at Sun Water Spa at 514 El Paso Blvd., at 7:30 p.m.

NATHROP

10 Annual Holiday Celebration for Collegiate Peaks Bank from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Pavilion. There is no better instrument to convey the essence of the holidays than the harp, which is why you should

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cocoa, in addition to adult beverages, will be offered in the lobby prior to the screening. Space is limited - those interested in attending the screening can go to www.sellarsprojectspace.org to reserve their seats. The movie is free and open to the public, with donations accepted at the event. All donations go to support programs by Sellars Project Space and the Salida Creative District.

WOODLAND PARK

2 Community Partnership Benefit at BierWerks see ad page 24.

3 Lighter Side of Christmas Parade see ad on page 13.

3 & 4 18th Annual Tweeds Holiday Home Tour 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Supports Ute Pass Historical Society, Rampart Library District, and the Clothes Closet. Tickets are \$15 in advance, day of event \$17. For more information call 719-687-1115 or 719-291-4951.

7, 14 Bible Study Fellowship. In-depth Non-denominational Bible Study. Please join us as we study the Book of John. FREE! 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Woodland Park Community Church

1, 8, 15 Bible Study Fellowship at 10 a.m. to noon at High View Baptist Church. Contact: Tara Hendrickson for details at 303-949-8055 or zfune@aol.com

19 Diabetes Support Group meets the third Monday of every month from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. Open to all persons with diabetes and their family members. Call 719-686-5802 for more information.

• Clothes Closet offers free food and clothing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Donations accepted. Call 719-687-2388 for more information.

• GED classes are offered Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please call Katy to register 719-686-0705.

• Woodland Country Lodge see ad on page 4.

PARK COUNTY

- Park County Senior Coalition has a Grant for Park County Veterans of any age to help pay for Housing, Utilities, Groceries and Gas. For more information, please call 719-836-4295.

SALIDA

1 Chaffee County The Emergency Food Assistance Program & Commodity Supplemental Food Program distributions on the 1st Thursday of each month at Salida Community Center, 305 F Street, from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Call Elaine Alleman for more information 719-539-3351.

1 Free Legal Clinic at Salida Regional Library from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. A free legal clinic for parties who have no attorney, will be featured from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Salida Regional Library. By computer link, volunteer attorneys will answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for all areas of civil litigation, including family law, property law, probate law, collections, appeals, landlord-tenant law, small claims, veterans issues, and civil protection orders. Walk-ins welcome!

3 Maryanne Rozzi, Celtic Harpist from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Heart of the Rockies Home Health and Hospice presenting "Tree of Life" Community Remembrance Celebration — Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center, Main Entrance to Atrium. Refreshments to follow. For more information call 719-838-0279.

10 Eye Candy will be the featured gallery for the "Salida 2nd Saturday Gallery Tours" from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information call 719-539-2250 or email 4eyecandy@earthlink.net. See ad on page 19.

10 Dies Library/Day of Books. Think holidays! Meet and greet eight authors from noon to 8 p.m. Informal drop in. 15% off their books all day while you enjoy appetizers and refreshments. Visit the Book Haven or call 719-539-9629 or thebookhavenonline.com

19 White Christmas at the Steamplant, presented by Sellars Project Space. The beloved holiday classic from 1954, stars Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney. In addition to the film, there will be a holiday themed contest with prizes offered, in three categories: Ugly Holiday Sweater, Festive Vintage, and Holiday Kids. Sing-alongs will be encouraged during the musical numbers, and Santa is rumored to be making an appearance that evening as well. The movie shows at 7 p.m. at the Salida SteamPlant Theater. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Popcorn and hot

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