

He who has not Christmas
in his heart will never
find it under a tree.
Roy L. Smith



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On Deck

This month's cover is a photo Jeff took at Divide Hayden Park. Jeff was thinking of how the simplest act of kindness can bring forth the holiday spirit.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our readers, our writers, advertisers, and our growing sales staff, without whom these issues would be impossible, a healthy, happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Mr. Spaz is happy to present a few photos sent to him as the photo editor of Critter Corner. He is hoping for more photos to bring in the New Year. Please send them his way.

The Youth Writing Contest set for High School Seniors seems to be lacking in interest. While our hope and intention was to help give our High School students of Teller & Park Counties a bit of an edge for resumes or college applications, there has been very little interest. We will keep the contest open in hopes that the holiday break is time enough for inspiration to hit the page.

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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History at the Pass

by Linda Bjorklund

At the top of Trout Creek Pass a turn to the west takes a traveler onto a county road past an unusual looking landmark. Railroad history buffs know it as the spot where the tracks of the Colorado Midland Railroad and the Denver, South Park & Pacific Railroads crossed over the top of one another, both on their way to Leadville via Buena Vista. The tracks are long gone, but the site is still recognizable. A few miles down the same county road a sign marks the entry to Chubb Park. There are a number of hiking, biking and ATV trails in this part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest now. But there is yet more history in this place.

Pretty close to the continental divide, this is where a fellow named Robert Bass Newitt decided to settle in 1867 when he came west from DeKalb, Illinois. At the lower end of an open valley on the south side of the Pass, "Chubb," as he was known to all his friends and neighbors, built a hotel, established a ranch, and platted a town called Newitt. Other names referred to the spot as Divide, Dolomite and Higgins, all of which were the same post office locations listing Newitt as the postmaster. Or it was known as just plain "Chubb's Ranch."

Chubb was still in his early twenties when Ella Nye came to live at the Salt Works Ranch, located just on the other side of Trout Creek Pass to the north. Ella was the daughter of Mary Melissa Nye Hall, now wife of Charles Hall. Mary had come west in 1860 with her former husband, Nathan Nye and their two children, Ella and Hal. Nathan was a habitual drunk, who beat his wife, causing her to miscarry their third child. The miners' court in the camp banished Nye and granted Mary a divorce decree. Nathan took the two children and headed back east, later writing to Mary that their wagon had been attacked by Indians and the children were killed.

Mary Melissa married Charles Hall, who had located a homestead location where a salt springs could be developed into a profitable business. Years later a relative from Baltimore wrote Mary Melissa that her children were indeed alive and needed some support. By this time Mary and Charles had children of their own, but Mary brought Hal and Ella back to the ranch in Colorado.

More years passed and Ella, now a young woman, somehow met and fell in love with the popular neighbor known as "Chubb." Upon finding out that Ella was pregnant, her stepfather angrily forced an immediate wedding of the shotgun variety, then forbade Mary to have anything to do with her eldest daughter. Mary reluctantly complied until one day a cowboy rode up to the house at the Salt Works Ranch and reported that her daughter was going to die, and shouldn't she come along. Mary immediately followed the cowboy to Fairplay. Neither Ella nor her baby girl survived, and both were buried in the Fairplay Cemetery in December of 1876.

Chubb remained at his ranch, expecting the railroads to make that location a terminus or "end of track." In the meantime he had married again, to a girl from his home town in DeKalb,

Illinois. He and wife Ellen had their first child, Robert, Jr., in February of 1879. Chubb had delved into mining nearby and found minerals like copper, carbonates, leads, and galena. He found coal deposits and attempted to mine those as well.

The "end of track" at Newitt turned out to be short-lived as the DSP&P raced to finish the narrow-gauge track to Leadville, competing for the mineral wealth that was centered there. In 1880 the town of Newitt boasted a store, saw-mill, post office and depot for the DSP&P as well as home for around a hundred people. As business fell off, Chubb became involved in a number of other business pursuits. The Newitts moved to Fairplay, where their second son, Ward Maxey, was born in 1882. Chubb became involved in politics and served on the Fairplay Town Board as Treasurer the same year.

Early in 1883, the Fairplay Flume announced that Mr. R. B. Newitt and family would be moving to Hartsel, where they would lease and manage the Hot Springs Hotel. The hotel was originally built by Sam Hartsel when he established the town and his nearby ranch. Hartsel had made early use of the natural hot springs and widely advertised their use as a "cure-all" for any ailment. The hotel featured treatments at the springs, as well as its "warm reception and hospitable entertainment."

Chubb managed the hotel in Hartsel for three years. The Newitts' third child was born there in 1884, a daughter named Zoe.

Then Chubb got an idea for another business venture. The store in Newitt was pretty empty by now, so in 1885, he had the whole building loaded onto two railroad flatbed cars and moved to the developing town of Garo (a derivation of the family name Guiraud), located between Fairplay and Hartsel. Wings were added on either side of the store and Chubb set up his mercantile business. The next year he purchased property described in the deed as follows:

"For the sum of \$900 paid by Robert B. Newitt to Lawrence C. Stephens for one store building known as the Stephens and Milligan Building near Garo Station. One frame building near said store building used as a blacksmith shop and stable, one buckboard, one bay stallion about six years old, called Dexter, one bay horse about five years old called Lengthy, one bay horse about twelve years old, called Narrow Gauge..."

Chubb remained involved in politics as he ran his store in Garo. He became the County Assessor in 1887 and roamed the countryside making sure properties were on the tax rolls at their proper value. While they were in Garo, two more children were born to the Newitts, both daughters.

In the fall of 1890, Chubb ran and was elected to hold office as a Park County Com-



Park County Local History Archives photo of the Garo store taken in the early 1900s. source: Wilbur Lewis



The Garo store as it looks today. photo by Jeff Hansen

missioner. Then tragedy struck. It was reported in the Denver Times on Friday, May 9, 1891:

"Chubb Newitt was accidentally shot on the threshold of his own house at Garos by the agent of the Denver, Leadville & Gunnison Railroad, who together with Mr. Newitt's son, was trying to extract a cartridge from an old Winchester rifle. Mr. Newitt was standing on the steps at the moment the shell exploded and the ball took effect in the groin and ranged up into the hip. He died at an early hour this morning."

A stunned Board of Commissioners appointed Sam Hartsel to finish out the term of their newly elected member. Newitt's wife, Ellen, ran the Garo store herself for a while, but sold it in 1897.

Today the store in Garo still stands, albeit boarded up and unused for many years. There is nothing left of the train depot, which was formerly on the opposite side of the building that fronts the highway now. The train tracks have long since been torn up as well. The Garo school house was moved to the South Park City Museum, where it was refurbished as a historic example of one-room schoolhouses.

Back in the town of Newitt nothing visible remains, except a modern limestone quarry near the old site. There may be an old grave and remains of a cabin, but the site blends into the countryside as vehicles drive down Highway 285, oblivious to the history that was there.

In 1901 a short article appeared in the Fairplay Flume:

"While prospecting near Newitt, fifteen miles east of Buena Vista, George Cooper discovered the tooth of a mastodon in a very good state of preservation. It is described as measuring eighteen inches in length and six inches in breadth."

It appears that history there goes back even further than we knew.

Sources include: "History of the State of Colorado Vol IV", by Frank Hall and "Bayou Salado: The Story of South Park" by Virginia McConnell Simmons

Guffey students learn about geology on Pikes Peak

by Mrs. MacDonald's 2nd-4th grade students
photo by Lynda MacDonald

On Tuesday, October 15th, the 2nd-8th grade Guffey students took a tour up Pikes Peak to learn about the life zones and geology of the area. Ranger Kent Chaney was our tour guide.

We started in the foothills and could look out over the plains as we got higher and higher. "The plains were amazing," said Emily Neumann.

Then we went through the montane zone. From there we went up to the subalpine zone. Finally we saw the alpine zone where we stopped at the treeline.

We learned that there are many kinds of trees that live at this altitude. We saw yucca and scrub oak near the bottom of the mountain. We saw a lot of aspen trees half way up the mountain. Then trees like blue spruce and limber pine began to grow. Some of the trees at treeline were very small. However, we learned that they could be very old. We even got to see a juniper tree that could be over 1,000 years old!

We learned that a couple of trees can grow on top of the alpine tundra if they have a parent rock. The rock was as big as a bus and is like a wind breaker for the trees. A parent rock is a rock that keeps the wind from getting too cold for the tree. The seedlings fly away and land behind the parent rock. Many years later, the seedling sprouts. As the tree gets taller, it drops seeds. The tree that is in front will protect the tree behind it. Ideally the trees keep on going. We saw that the wind will blow from the west and rip the branches that were on the west side.

"I liked that we got to go to the treeline. It was so fun to just see the trees stop growing," said Madison Piotrowski.

We also learned that there are many kinds of animals that live on the top of Pikes Peak



The students take a break from all that learning to pose for a picture.

such as the big horn sheep and the marmot. "I liked that our state animal lives on top of Pike Peak," said Sophia. We got to see so many prints in the snow. We also saw where a bear had left scratch marks in an aspen tree.

We learned that most of Pikes Peak rock was granite that was formed below the surface of the earth and pushed up. We got to feel

glacial polish on a rock. This is where a glacier polished over the rock like sandpaper making a spot as smooth as a soft wood floor.

"I liked when we disappeared into the clouds. It was like we were in a puffball," said Collin Neumann.

Over all it was a great trip. We learned a lot and we had a wonderful time.

PPRH winner at National Rural Health Day

Pikes Peak Regional Hospital was recently recognized by iVantage Health Analytics as a HealthStrong™ Award winner for Excellence in Outcomes, reflecting top quartile performance among all acute care hospitals in the nation.

"It is an honor that Pikes Peak Regional Hospital has been recognized as a national leader for the exceptional care and patient outcomes we provide," said Terry Buckner, hospital CEO. "Our goal is to provide top-rated healthcare to all our patients. Such recognition is a testimony to our dedicated team of professional who works tirelessly to assure outstanding outcomes."

America's rural communities are wonderful places to live, work, and visit. They are also communities where healthcare providers have the opportunity to provide innovative, affordable, and holistic primary care, a model for the rest of the country to follow as America transitions to a population, wellness-based system of health care.

Unfortunately, these communities also face unique healthcare needs: a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from a greater number of chronic conditions, and larger percentages of un- and underinsured citizens. While the Affordable Care Act may make health care more affordable for rural Americans, it won't necessarily make it more accessible; a lack of public transportation, fragile infrastructures, and geographic barriers also must be overcome in order to ensure that all rural safety net providers can adequately meet the basic healthcare needs of their residents.

These were just a few of the messages shared by the Colorado Rural Health Center, the National

Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), and other local, state and national rural stakeholders during the third annual National Rural Health Day celebration on November 21, 2013.

"Pikes Peak Regional Hospital receiving this award validates the quality of care that rural providers in Colorado provide to patients and is also a testament to the commitment and dedication of their medical and nursing staff who impact patients every day," said Michelle Mills, CEO of the Colorado Rural Health Center.

iVantage Health announced the latest HealthStrong Award™ winners at the annual meeting of the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health held this October in Asheville, NC. TheHealthStrong Awards are based on The Hospital Strength Index™, a national ratings program developed by iVantage to recognize top performing hospitals based on key metrics critical to success in the new healthcare marketplace. The Hospital Strength Index ranks all 4,400+ U.S. general acute care hospitals, including the 1,300+ Critical Access Hospitals. The Index is based on eight performance categories, measuring 56 different performance metrics. The Index offers hospital executives, trustees and boards of directors an objective way to measure their relative performance internally and among their peers.

Small and rural hospitals play a critical role in providing efficient and effective healthcare that is comparable to its larger urban counterparts. "Rural hospitals have new and difficult demands that can only be managed with better information. The Hospital Strength Index reflects the

multiple challenges of running a hospital by incorporating the measures on which the industry has worked to gain consensus and standardization," said John Morrow, executive vice president of iVantageHealth Analytics, Inc.

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Rampart Range Library news

by Antonia Krupicka-Smith

The change the library has been talking about for so long have finally happened! Welcome to Marmot and the new look of the Rampart Library District website! If you haven't wandered over to the Rampart Library District website, <http://rampart.colibraries.org>, in a while, please take a look. Not only did it get a face lift with a new bright color, new heading, and newly redesigned pages, we also have a new library catalog and loads of new books for you to dig into as the weather truly starts to get frightful!

These changes are due to the Rampart Library District joining the Colorado Marmot Partnership. The Colorado Marmot Partnership is based in Grand Junction, CO, with libraries across the state working together to share resources and offer patrons more materials. There are 95 public, school, and academic libraries from 23 different library institutions all working together adding to one public catalog. This allows you to have access to over 3 million items that you can place on hold and have delivered to your local library! You also have access to over 13,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMusic, and now eVideos through OverDrive and other sources. Everything is accessible through the library website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year!

With these changes, there have also been some changes to your Rampart Library District library card. The new guidelines allow you to have 35 items out at one time if you live in the RE-2 district. You will also no longer need to have a PIN number to access your library account, place Holds, or download eContent. Instead only your name and library card number are required. We hope these changes will make browsing and placing holds on our expanded collection easier.

Returning to the Woodland Park Public Library Resource Center on Thursdays is the Pikes Peak Workforce Center. An employee from the Pikes Peak Workforce Center will be staffing the Resource Center from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Thursday. You can find help job searching, resume writing, and filing for unemployment from a trained Workforce Center employee.

During December, the library will be offering weekly story times at both the Woodland Park Public Library on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. and the Florissant Public Library on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. The library will be hosting a Recycled Art program using old books. At Woodland Park, the program will be from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on December 5th. Learn to make an ornament, a wreath, or earrings using old book pages. The Florissant Public Library will be holding a Holiday Open House on Friday, December 6th starting at 11:45 a.m. with a cookie exchange, a demonstration of the new library catalog followed by holiday music from several local musicians, and then the cookie pick up. The Recycled Art program, starting at 2 p.m., will finish the afternoon of festivities. Mrs. Claus will be visiting both libraries before the holiday break. She stops by Woodland Park on Wednesday, December 18th at 10:30 a.m. and Florissant on Thursday, December 19th at 10:30 a.m. Lego club will also be meeting in Woodland Park every Friday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

From everybody at the Rampart Library District we hope you find the changes we have made to your benefit. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday season!

2014 USA Pro Challenge in Woodland Park

by Deb Stanley

The 2014 USA Pro Challenge bike race will race through Aspen, Gunnison, over part of Monarch Pass, around Colorado Springs, from Woodland Park to Breckenridge, around Vail and visit several other cities next summer.

The race will kick off in Aspen on Monday, August 18 with a circuit race.

Tuesday, cyclists will race from Aspen to Crested Butte.

Day 3, the race course winds from Gunnison to Monarch Mountain on Monarch Pass for its first-ever mountain top finish.

Stage 4, on Thursday, will take riders around Colorado Springs for the second circuit race of the week.

Day 5, cyclists will race from Woodland Park to Breckenridge before traveling to Vail for a time trial on Saturday.

On day 7, the race will finish in the Denver metro area. However, fans will choose the final location and the plan for the final day. Fans are being asked to go to: www.prochallenge.com/PickStage7 and choose between four options for Stage 7:

- Denver Circuit Race similar to the final stage of the 2013 race
- Start in Golden and finish in Denver
- Start in Boulder and finish in Denver
- Start in Boulder and end in Golden

"The most cities selected for the 2014 USA Pro Challenge will really highlight the majestic beauty of Colorado to our worldwide audience," said Rick Schaden, owner of the USA Pro Challenge. "These cities are valued partners who help us continue to raise the bar for professional cycling in America."

This will be the first time racers will visit Monarch Mountain and Woodland Park. The specific, detailed route will be announced in the spring.

Coulson Lake and the Clark Ranch

by David Martinek

They are inextricably tied together in history – Coulson Lake and the Clark Ranch. Lying just south of U.S. Highway 24 a mile or so east of Divide, the Clark Ranch with its red metal roofs shining in the sun evokes memories of the past dating back to the homesteading days of the 1860s and 70s. The small dam of Coulson Lake peers gently just beyond the traffic light to Meadow Park.

While it is not readily known who homesteaded the land that is now the Clark Ranch, some sources say that early families settled in the area near a small thermal artesian spring which flowed year-round and provided much needed water for people and animals.

Fortunately, more information is available from old tract records and logs of early land transactions, though they are sometimes difficult to interpret, which help to piece together at least a general chain of ownership back to the issuance of the first land patent.

With the much appreciated assistance of Steve Elak from Fidelity National Title Company in Woodland Park, the early records indicate that a U.S. Land Patent was issued to a Lyman Boynton in the early 1870s for a tract of land that contained the present-day Clark Ranch and Coulson Lake acreage. While the dates for succeeding transactions are sketchy at best, there is an interesting list of names of the various owners coming forward to the present.

The records show that Boynton sold some of his land to Wesley Wheeler and some to Daniel Steffa. When Steffa died, his parcel was sold to a man named Van Orden who later transferred the property to T. W. Forman. Forman resold the property to Silas Thompson who sold the land to Frank A. Coulson.

The Coulson family, comprised through the generations of Frank A. Coulson, Harry A. Coulson, Henry E. Coulson and Alfred B. (Alf) Coulson, owned the ranch during the time of the building of the Colorado Midland Railway (1887), or until roughly the 1950s. The family acquired other small parcels which were added to the ranch from such parties as: P. T. McCleod, James G. Butler, and Charles and Myrtie Rust (Charles and Myrtie are listed in the 1900 census for Teller County).

Alf Coulson ran a dairy on the property and reportedly developed a small eight-acre lake around 1929 to water his cattle and provide ice for the storage and transport of produce being grown in the Divide area. The streams of Rule and Redner Creek flow through the ranch and keep the lake full. However, other sources say that Coulson Lake was created during the Great Depression by local Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers. The CCC was active from 1933 to 1942.

Despite confusing dates and history, it is known that Coulson also grew lettuce and potatoes on the ranch along with many adjacent neighbors. The terraces in the nearby meadows can still be seen today. Coulson also served as a Teller County Commissioner for a while, as well as a member of the local school board.

Coulson Lake served an important function – ice. Although A. E. Carlton's Colorado Midland railroad ceased operations in 1918, the tracks west of Divide remained until the 1920s. But before they were taken up and the railroad's right-of-way dedicated to the state for highway use, a portion of the large, five-story ice plant located at Lake George was moved to the banks of Coulson Lake to provide ice to the Midland Terminal, also Carlton's railroad. A spur line was built from the main road to accommodate the ice plant. Unused ice was stored in sheds in sawdust and in nearby converted box cars. Two of those old boxcars are still sitting near the western rim of the lake.

According to the old-timers, agriculture flourished in the region during the depression years because the weather patterns along Ute Pass were much different than they are now. More moisture and milder temperatures advanced the growth of lettuce and potato crops which when harvested were sent by Midland Terminal refrigeration cars, using the ice from Coulson Lake, to Chicago and other eastern cities. However, towards the late 1930s, the produce industry declined.

It was Emil Clark who gave the Clark Ranch a name that has come down through the years. But the succession of ownership of the ranch to Emil Clark is not a direct line from Alf Coulson.

Coulson.

Apparently, Alf sold the ranch, or parts of it, to a man named Fox who in turn later sold off the acreage to Hiram H. and Elizabeth C. Moore, as well as J. Reed Williams. Clark rejoined some of the ranch property by purchasing parcels from Elizabeth Moore (from H. H. Moore's estate) and from Williams.

Emil Clark (or his estate) owned and operated the ranch until the fall of 2005 when title to the property was deeded to Dennis Sponseller. Sponseller had married Emil Clark's daughter and it's likely that he gained ownership of the ranch through an inheritance. It was Sponseller who, in partnership with the Rural Land Preservation Group and Palmer Land Trust, donated an initial 605 acres of the ranch for a protected easement and received a grant from Great

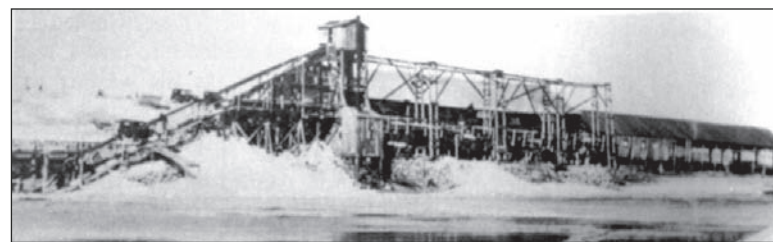


11900 West Highway 24 is the address of the Clark Ranch. Its entrance is just about a mile east of Divide on the south side of the highway. photo by David Martinek

ranch to the south and southeast. Elk, deer and black bear are plentiful. Coulson Lake was last stocked with trout in 2005.

Looking back at all this history, one is allowed to wonder what must have passed by the ranch during its lifetime – Ute Indians on their

way to the hunting grounds of South Park; cowboys and sheepherders driving their herds and flocks through Divide; railroad men building and working on the Colorado Midland and Midland Terminal railroads; refrigeration cars carrying the region's prized lettuce and potatoes down to the hungry tables of the east; the giant ice plant operating on the banks of Coulson Lake; and the dust of several sawmills filling the air. Viewing the blue sky canopy above the red roofs of the ranch headquarters or gazing over the empty grassy prairies of the ranch today, it may be hard to imagine all these events taking place over the span of 140 years, but the Clark Ranch and Coulson Lake have seen their time, and they are truly two of the most important historical legacies of Teller County.



This is a 1938 view of the ice plant on the western bank of Coulson Lake in Divide where lettuce and seed potatoes were loaded into Midland Terminal refrigeration cars and iced for shipment. Ice was cut from Coulson Lake once or twice a winter and stored in sawdust in the large shed until summer, or in old boxcars, when it was shipped in blocks or crushed for packing purposes. photo courtesy of the UPHS

Outdoors Colorado, as well as other matching funds, to protect the remaining acreage.

Sponseller later sold the ranch to Alan Grigsby and the Grigsby Family Partnership in the summer of 2011. The Grigsby's remodeled the Ranch Headquarters and grazed cattle on the property. After Alan Grigsby's untimely death, the Clark Ranch was once again recently sold to a Texas group.

The current size of the ranch numbers a little over 893 acres, according to Teller County Assessor records, including portions of four sections and a part of the Whistlestop subdivision. Throughout its history it has been used to graze horses and cattle, and for agriculture. For example, while Coulson grazed dairy cows, Clark used the property as a horse ranch, often as much as 60 head, as well as more than 50 head of cattle. The scenic beauty of the ranch land with views stretching south to Raspberry Mountain and Pikes Peak was also the location



Two old boxcars that were once used to store unused ice in sawdust are still sitting on the western bank of Coulson Lake. photo by David Martinek

of several TV commercials and magazine ads during Clark's time, including Chevrolet, Coleman, Marlboro (cigarettes), and, of course, Coulson grew produce crops.

Adding to the postcard-like appeal, the surrounding ranches east of Divide along U.S. Highway 24 are also now under conservation easement which means that the spectacular views of Pikes Peak and its foothills will never be marred by commercial or residential development.

The original cabin, built around 1873, is still on the property and the artisan spring that attracted the first settlers is still flowing. The ranch sits at an elevation of between 9,060 to 9,461 feet above sea level with nearly 75 percent composed of gently rolling prairie and grasslands, the rest in timber. Aspen, ponderosa pine, blue spruce and Douglas-fir border the

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An agate from Deming, New Mexico.
photo by Pete Modreski

Agates

by Shannon Kosman

I will tell you a few facts about agates. Agates are rarely larger than an adult's fist. Agates appear in a variety of colors: white to gray, red, reddish brown, brown to yellow, blue to purple, and have multicolored bands. Agates are at a level seven on the Mohs scale of hardness. They can be scratched by topaz. Agates are a form of quartz crystals that are too small to see.



Note the beautiful banding of this agate.
Various agates can be found in Park county
and Fremont county. photo by Pete Modreski

You can find agates all over the country. In the southern part of Colorado try looking along the Arkansas River. Agates are also found in the San Juan Mountains. Agates can be found to the west of Teller County in Park County. Look for see through material and bands of color. Maybe if you're lucky you can find some agates in your own backyard!

About the author:

Shannon Kosman is 8 years old and is a third grader at Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning. She enjoys rock collecting, Girl Scouts, reading and baton twirling. She has been a member of Pebble Pups for the past year and is looking forward to writing more articles.

A Pale Blue Celestine mineral from Madagascar

by Nate Blume

A Mineral Haiku

Lustrous crystals shine
Shimmering in stunning blue
They are beautiful

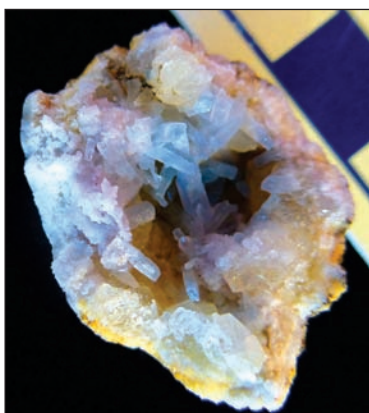
Facts on File:

Formula: SrSO₄ (Strontium Sulfate)
Specific gravity: 3.96 – 3.98 g/cm³
Crystal system: Orthorhombic
Group: Barite group
Color: Colorless to shades of blue, white, red, green and brown
Luster: Vitreous, pearly
Streak: white
Mohs hardness scale: 3-3.5
Fracture: Irregular/uneven

Notes: Celestine was discovered in 1791. The name celestine is based on the word "celestial" and refers to the beautiful blue colors of some celestine minerals that look like the sky. I got this specimen from an old mineral collection from the 1960s. The blue coloring is caused by irradiation of impurities of gold in the crystal. Celestine is often found in sedimentary rocks like limestone and hydrothermal veins.

References: "Smithsonian Handbooks: Rocks and Minerals" by Chris Pellant
"Firefly Guide to Minerals Rocks & Fossils" by A.C. Bishop, A.R. Woolley and W.R. Hamilton

web sources:
http://www.mineral.net
http://www.mindat.org



Blue crystals of celestine in a geode.
This specimen measures 1.875" x
0.875" (23 mm x 19 mm). Image © by
Nate Bloom, A Nate Bloom specimen.

Author Bio:

Nate Blume is 10 years old and attend 5th grade at the Rocky Mountain Classical Academy in Colorado Springs. He is a member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups and the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Colorado Springs, CO. The Pikes Peak Pebble Pups have a unit in Teller County that meets in Lake George. The other unit meets in Colorado Springs.



Author Nate Blume is active
in the study of Earth sciences
in the Pikes Peak region.

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Decree for change

by Kathy Hansen

Have you ever wanted to make a change in your life? Maybe you have a new goal, like making a career change, getting into shape, improving your weight and health or developing a new interest. Change can be hard. Most of us are resistant to change. We tend to like routine and the status quo because it is familiar, and therefore feels safe. Yet, there are times when the winds of change begin to blow, stirring up feelings of restlessness. Wouldn't it be nice to have someone to help guide your way, and help you understand the transformation?

Meet Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director and Angel Therapy Practitioner®, founder of Miracles of Wellness training. Barbara believes we have the ability to create change in our lives by transforming belief systems we hold in our subconscious mind. Once we become aware of the beliefs we shaped about ourselves before the age of five, we can transform them into messages that better serve our goals of the person we are today, as well as developing the person we wish to become tomorrow. A healthier subconscious thought will naturally generate better results.

**We have the ability
to change our lives
by changing our
minds. My job is to
teach you how.**

Barbara Royal



Barbara Royal

place stress, and chronic illness. The formal training not only gave me tools for assisting others in their healing process, but myself as well." Barbara reminds me that we are all teachers and students of each other.

Barbara received her certification as a Spiritual Director from the Center at Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs after a two year training period. She was raised in the Jewish faith, but felt called to serve people of all belief systems. Barbara takes time to listen to your belief system so that she can honor where you are at and what your belief system entails. This becomes a journey she walks with you in many ways.

As you work with Barbara, she will help you to develop your decree, which is your affirmation that your desired outcome is already fulfilled. Barbara will then invoke the Divine, which includes God, the angels and spirit beings, such as those who have gone before willing to assist in the transformation, essentially the entire company of heaven. While it is you who must remain open to the work being done, Barbara is there to share the journey, invite feedback, and help you to be attuned to your experience. This helps to deepen the encounter, so that when you practice on your own the process becomes more meaningful.

Barbara remains available between your meetings via telephone or email in case you need some help. I found after several days of meditating on my decree that negative messages were coming into my awareness. Once I shared those messages with Barbara, she reminded me that I was simply becoming aware of messages that were very deep inside that were being transformed by the Divine. Ah, that made sense! If this work is about transforming old messages into new ones, of course, I would be aware of what was being transformed. Understanding this, allowed me to see the negative

Barbara will lead a mini workshop on the art of miracle making at the January 21 meeting of the Wholistic Networking Community. The group meets at the Woodland Park Library the third Tuesday of each month from 11 to 12:30. The public is invited to attend this free monthly gathering. If you wish to participate in the workshop on the 21st, let Barbara know and she will have handouts available for you.

She facilitates a free study group on spiritual principles every Saturday morning. The group is available to all who are interested in creating a better life for themselves and our world. You may contact her for more information.

message in a different way, allow the process of transformation to occur, and to become more comfortable with the new message. Change can now be manifested in my life!

Just like eating healthy and exercising regularly to keep up our physical health, frequency makes a difference. While it certainly doesn't hurt you to eat healthy and exercise one day a week, doing so daily has a very different effect. The same is true of spiritual work: daily practice has a different consequence than once per week. You will get out of it what you put into it. Remember, we are constantly choosing our future because we are constantly creating it.

There is only one requirement: faith, according to your personal understanding of the Divine. Barbara reminds me we can create anything we want in our lives.

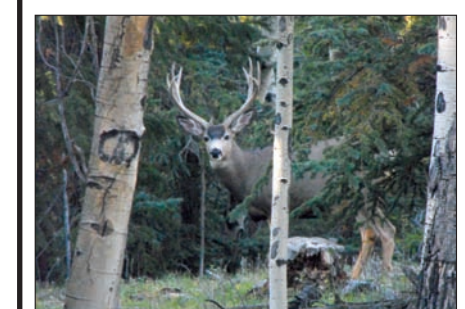
I asked Barbara to explain why this work is important, "My goal is to help people become aware of the power of prayer and their inherent creative abilities to manifest the life they desire. I have a passion to promote harmony between people of different races, religious and spiritual beliefs. I know the process of mental, emotional, and spiritual growth is part of God's divine plan for all of us. As we heal individually, we have opportunity to participate in healing "the whole." We can create love and peace among humanity and manifest the miracle of heaven right here on earth! I believe this work can help actualize all of these things."

Barbara offers a free consultation, which I highly recommend. After all, while we are trying to manifest a change in our lives, it can be comforting to have someone willing to accept us as we carve a new path, ready to support each step without judgment, and to remind us we are not alone in this incredible journey! You may contact her for more information 719-687-6823 or emailing MiraclesOfWellness@gmail.com.

Critter Corner



Thinking about a snack -
Bernie Nagy, Fairplay



Backyard deer-
Steve Volski, Divide

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



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Your Home on the Market During the Holidays

It's not unusual to have buyers looking at homes throughout the holiday season - potential buyers are visiting family members in our area and local buyers often have time off. If your home is on the market now, keep your holiday decor to a minimum. If you put up a tree, it's good to remove a piece of furniture or other item from the room so it doesn't feel crowded. Focus your decorating on a few areas of the home rather than throughout every room, make sure there's no cords to trip on and have your lights on to create a festive atmosphere. And buyers and brokers always appreciate holiday cookies while viewing your home!



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Are you unknowingly making your family sick?

by Carol Grieve

Did you know that many products in our grocery stores contain, plastic, sawdust, beaver butt, chemicals and known carcinogens? Learning to read labels has never been more important than it is today. We live in a time where you need to be your own food advocate and ask questions. Many of the corporations have one goal in mind and that is profit with very little consideration of actual nutrition for you and your family. What makes this even worse is that many of these unhealthy products are being marketed to your children.

Let's dig in here and pull back the veil on some of these ingredients in our food. In this article I will cover just a sampling of some of these dangerous ingredients that are lurking inside our food.

Most recently, there have been articles in the news about Flamin Hot Cheetos and kids going to the emergency room after consuming bags of these. I started to investigate the ingredients in this product:



There are so many dangerous ingredients in this product but I will just talk about a few. The first is Monosodium Glutamate (MSG). For one, MSG is a known excitotoxin. Excitotoxicity is the pathological process by which nerve cells are damaged and killed by excessive stimulation by neurotransmitters such as glutamate and similar substances. What does this mean? In essence, an excitotoxin goes to the brain and literally can excite the cell to death. Excitotoxins are dangerous and here are a few to avoid, aspartame, carrageenan, MSG to name a few. Notice this product also has carrageenan! Carrageenan is also a carcinogen. A carcinogen is any substance, radionuclide, or radiation that is an agent directly involved in causing cancer. To learn more about excitotoxins, I suggest you tune into Food Integrity Now's show with Dr. Russell Laylock, Retired Neurosurgeon and author of "Excitotoxins, The Tastes that Kills". (foodintegritynow.org)

This product also contains Partially Hydrogenated Soybean and Cottonseed Oil, as well as Hydrolyzed Soy Protein. These ingredients are Trans fats. The FDA has recently announced that it will require the food industry to gradually phase out all Trans fats, saying they are a threat to people's health. I could go through this entire label and tell you what everything is but just know that none of the ingredients in this product are real food.

Now, let's talk about "Natural Flavors." What exactly does this mean? It can mean so much and companies are not required to divulge this information. Natural flavor can be another way to disguise MSGs. You probably know that beavers' anal glands are natural, but did it ever cross your mind that they could be used in flavoring?

Well, it turns that they are used more commonly than you'd like to believe. For years, food companies have been using "castoreum" to flavor ice cream and other foods that need that rich, vanilla-like flavor. Castoreum is just a more pleasant and discrete word for a compound extracted from the crushed anal glands of beavers. Under FDA rules, companies are free to keep this ingredient a secret. Rather than including "castoreum" on the ingredients list, companies can just write "natural flavor-

ing." This makes perfect marketing sense; how many of you would buy that extra-large tub of vanilla ice-cream if you knew there were bits of beaver butt in it? Why do they use this? The bottom line; it is cheaper to use than using "real" food ingredients. I have to give credit to Foodbabe.com for advising us about beaver butt.

Cellulose is another commonly used ingredient in many food products. Cellulose can be called by these different names on the ingredients label: Carboxymethyl cellulose, Microcrystalline Cellulose, or MCC, and Celulose Gum. The most economical choice for cellulose comes from wood by-products (wood pulp). Humans cannot digest cellulose and it has no caloric value. The food industry tricks consumers who eat foods with a high cellulose content to feel full physically and psychologically without having consumed many calories. Cellulose can be used as a supplement to bulk up foods with fake fiber. Next time you see "added fiber" on the label, take a look at the ingredients, it usually contains cellulose. Cellulose can absorb water and is used as an "anti-caking" agent in shredded and grated cheeses, spice mixes, and powdered drink mixes and breakfast syrups. I suggest you buy real maple syrup, grate your own cheese, make your own spices and don't drink powdered drinks.

The industry is constantly trying to convince the public (and they are doing a great job of this) with their marketing ploys that there product is "natural" or "healthy." Another example is a product called Healthy Choice. Let's take for example their Cafe Steamers Chicken Marinara. Here is the list of ingredients in this product. As a general rule when a product has a list this long of ingredients, it's not a healthy choice! I've listed the ingredients one would use at home when preparing this dish and underlined additives that I don't think regular folks have at home.

Cooked Penne Pasta (Water, Durum, Semolina [Enriched with Niacin, Iron (Ferrous Sulfate), Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid], Egg Whites), Garlic and Pepper Seasoned Chicken Tenderloin Chunks, Chicken Tenderloin, Water, Garlic and Pepper, Chicken Seasoning [Salt, Sugar, Dehydrated Garlic, Spices Including Paprika, Maltodextrin, Soy Lecithin, Chicken Broth (Contains Flavors), Xanthan Gum, Caramel Color, Natural Flavor], Olive Oil, Isolated Soy Protein Product [Isolated Soy Protein, Modified Food Starch, Starch, Carrageenan, Soy Lecithin], Broccoli, Water, Diced Tomatoes, Tomato Paste, Contains 2% or Less of: Full Moisture Parmesan Cheese (Cultured Pasteurized Milk, Salt, Enzymes), Brown Sugar, Onions, Garlic, Salt, Canola Oil, Modified Food Starch, Spices, Potassium Chloride, Xanthan Gum, Citric Acid.

This product is loaded with genetically engineered (GMOs) ingredients as well as unnatural and unnecessary ingredients that have just been added to make it taste better without adding any nutritional value. By the way, on the Healthy Choice website, they'll gladly boast their nutrition info, but the ingredient lists cannot be found. The company says it's because product formulations change occasionally. I call "BS" on this one—I think it is sneaky and deceitful. While this product may not be the most harmful processed frozen food, I use it as an example of one of the many ways these corporations use to dupe us into thinking their product has a high nutritional value.

Foodbabe.com investigates food products and uncovers the truth on many of these unhealthy ingredients. In a recent article, she uncovered this:



"Dimethylpolysiloxane 101 (a.k.a. Silly Putty) Dimethylsiloxane is commonly used in vinegary-smelling silicone caulks, adhesives, and aquarium sealants, a component in silicone grease and other silicone based lubricants, as well as in defoaming agents, mold release agents, damping fluids, heat transfer fluids, polishes, cosmetics, hair conditioners AND IN OUR FOOD! There have been no major studies conducted on the safety of dimethylsiloxane in food by the FDA or the Food Industry since it was approved in 1998, but the food industry is allowed to use it in anything they want (except milk). Chick-fil-A Chicken Sandwiches, McDonalds French Fries, KFC Mash Potatoes and Biscuits, Taco Bell Cinnamon Twists, Domino Bread Sticks, and on and on – the list of guilty restaurants is mind-blowing."

While Flamin Hot Cheetos may be at the top of my list on products you should never eat, the list goes on and on in the processed foods industry and they ARE making people sick. A child's immune system is more vulnerable to the chemicals and other harmful ingredients in processed foods. Take a look at the number of children with food allergies now as compared to 20 years ago. What changed? The food!

This brings me back to the saying the same thing. Don't buy this stuff! It's a much better choice to use fresh ingredients than to buy processed food. We have become a society that has learned to rely on fast, convenient, and cheap food; we are making ourselves sick. There are many recipes available on the internet to make healthy and nutritious foods for our family without all the harmful additives.

I will leave you with a wonderful and healthy peanut butter cookie recipe from my friend, Mark DuVall, owner of The Whole in the Wall Herb and Vitamin Shoppe in Woodland Park. Eating a healthy diet can taste really good. Have a joyful holiday and be well. Bon Appetite!

Carol Grieve is a Certified Life Coach and Health and Wellness Coach and the host of Food Integrity Now (www.foodintegritynow.org) For more information on health and wellness coaching, contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org or call 415-302-7100. Phone or Skype sessions are available.

Peanut Butter Cookie Recipe

- 1 Cup Arrowhead Mills Crunchy Organic Peanut Butter
- 1 Cup Coconut Secret Raw Coconut Crystals
- 1 tsp Baking Soda
- 1 egg

Mix ingredients and roll into small balls and place on a greased cookie sheet (coconut oil is best to use). Use the bottom of a glass to smash down and score with a fork. Cook at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Have you started taking your RMDs?

Throughout your career, you have been working hard to save in one or more retirement accounts. Then, once you retire, you'll have some new decisions to make. But one choice has already been made for you: the age at which you must start taking withdrawals, or "distributions." It's a good idea to familiarize yourself with these distribution rules because they can have a big impact on your retirement income. You may even want to take action before the end of the year.

Here, in a nutshell, is the story: Once you reach age 70½, you must begin taking taxable withdrawals — known as "required minimum distributions," or RMDs — from your traditional IRA and most other retirement plans, such as a 401(k) plan, a 403(b) plan or a 457(b) plan. A Roth IRA, however, is not subject to RMDs.

If you turned 70½ in 2013, you may want to take your first RMD no later than Dec. 31. You could wait until April 1, 2014, to take your initial distribution, but you'd then have to take your next one by Dec. 31, 2014 — and two distributions in one year could have a sizable impact on your taxes. After you've taken your first RMD, you'll have to take one by Dec. 31 of each calendar year for the rest of your life — or until your account balance is zero.

These minimum distributions are calculated annually based on your age, account balance at the end of the previous year, marital status and spouse's age. If you do not meet the annual minimum distribution, you may be subject to a 50% penalty on your underpayment, plus ordinary income tax as the funds are withdrawn.

Of course, while you have to take at least the minimum distribution from your retirement plans, you can always take more — but should you? There's no one "right answer" for everyone. Obviously, if you need the money, you may have to go beyond the minimum when taking distributions. But if you have enough income from other sources — such as investments in other accounts, Social Security and even earnings from a part-time job — you may want to stick with the minimum distributions and leave your retirement accounts as intact as possible for as long as possible, thereby allowing them to potentially continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

Whatever your decision, you'll want to allow sufficient time to determine the size and timing of your RMDs, because if you have several retirement accounts, you may need to make some choices. For example, if you have more than one IRA, you can add the RMDs and take the combined distribution amount from any one — or more — of your IRAs. If you have more than one 401(k), you must calculate your RMDs separately for each plan. To help ensure you're doing things "by the book," consult with your tax and financial advisors before you start taking your RMDs.

You work hard to build your retirement plans. So, when it's time to start tapping into them, you'll want to make the right moves.

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

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Historic mining landscape takes on holiday décor

The giant headframes that are the remains of 1890's gold mining days will again light up the night sky around Victor and Cripple Creek this holiday season. These unique mining structures are one-of-a-kind remnants of the gold rush era.

Holiday ornaments, some as large as 20 feet tall, were lit against the starry night skies of the Victor and Cripple Creek starting Friday, Nov. 29.

A self-guided driving tour map is available at the Victor Hotel at 4th & Victor Avenue, area businesses, as well as the Cripple Creek Welcome Center and online at VictorColorado.com. The lights will be best viewed after dark and will be in place Friday through Sunday nights through New Year's Day, weather/safety and volunteers permitting.

The Victor Lowell Thomas Museum and gift shop will be open for special holiday shopping hours Dec. 7th – 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Dec. 21 and 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you liked the museum's Halloween decorations, don't miss the Christmas windows! Thanks to Mona and Jeff Campbell, the windows will feature village scenes of days gone by.

Crafts and holiday fun will be on deck for the Gold Camp Christmas events in Victor Dec. 13th-15th, including the Elk Emporium. See VictorColorado.com for information.

This holiday lighting tradition is 16 years old and is sponsored by the Cripple Creek

& Victor Gold Mining Company, on whose property most of the headframes are located. Volunteers from the communities staff the generators and line power connections each weekend. Other sponsors include an anonymous donor, Southern Teller County Focus Group and Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation and Cripple Creek District Museum. Support also comes from Black Hills Energy crews who help refurbish the lamps on the ornaments and donate power installations.

Make the trip an overnight get-away by booking a room at The Victor Hotel or your favorite lodging in Cripple Creek and take in the traditional holiday Butte Theater that show that focuses on lifting your holiday spirits. The Christmas Blaze opened Nov. 29 at the Butte Theater in Cripple Creek and runs through Dec. 29th.

For the outdoors minded, the Vindicator Valley, Little Grouse, Independence Mill Site, Golden Circle, Gold Camp and Battle Mountain Trails are open to the public during days in the winter. Come prepared to hike, bike in mountain weather. If there is enough snow, the trails are open to cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

The Victor community invites you to visit the historic City of Gold Mines for a day, evening drive or weekend stay this holiday season to experience part of our good old-fashioned holiday spirit.

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Prospectors, Season Two

by Christine Ford

How in the wide world does a small Colorado town like Lake George end up being one of the star settings of a reality TV show, "Prospectors", on The Weather Channel? From a Colorado Springs mother of seven to a Lake George family looking to make a mark in the world-wide gemstone and mineral market, fans of the show know it deals with a colorful cast of Front Range characters, who are risking life and limb in search of that big pay-off, possibly present belowground right in this area, and camera crews are following them for the second season.

Hidden below the Lake George earth, or high on the peaks and ridges of Mt Antero and Mt White, are rare and precious gemstones, something in high demand right now. Lake George is best known for its smoky quartz crystals and a blue-green stone named "Amazonite." Antero and White are home to aquamarines and several other rare gemstones. With a 59.60 carat pink diamond selling at auction at Sotheby's in November for \$83 million, and Christie's selling an orange diamond for \$36 million, it's no surprise that recent Lake George finds are bringing six figure appraisals. But between lightning, freak snowstorms, rockslides and claim jumpers, it's a job that can be fraught with peril and excitement on a daily basis.

According to Sarah Presta, co-executive producer of High Noon Entertainment of Denver, New York, and L.A., which produces "Prospectors", the show concept all began with a museum visit. High Noon company owner Sonny Hutchison had visited The Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) a few years ago and saw a reconstructed pocket of over 120 aquamarine crystals in matrix, or the original surrounding material it grew out of. (see photo) It captured Hutchison's imagination, as did the prospector who had braved such extreme conditions to find the specimen. When looking for a show idea, he reached out to Steve Brancato, who had made the big Mt. Antero find and sold it to a DMNS trustee who donated it to the Museum in 2006. Through Brancato, High Noon got to know the network of miners and prospectors in the area and realized they had quite a colorful cast. "It's a pretty small world," said Presta. "We got the green light from The Weather Channel right away. This was a good fit for them," she explained. "These people (prospectors) deal with weather every day," and so a TV reality show was born.

First on the schedule was a film shoot to make the commercials and advertising photos, such as the banner on their Facebook page. TWC's concept had the cast dressed as stereotypical turn-of-the-previous-century wild western characters sitting on a red velvet couch high above the Arkansas River Valley. A Salida company, Grit and Thistle Film Company, who does location scouting and production, helped produce the commercials, and are the ones who brought the now iconic red velvet couch up to the 12,000ft+ commercial shoot. Although the concept and wardrobe were not their idea, they worked with over 45 people from TWC's Atlanta office to make the commercial shoot a success.

The choice of wardrobe provided for her nearly had Amanda Adkins Anderson, the mother of seven, quit the show before it all began. "I can't let my Dad see me like that on national TV!" she protested over the three scanty choices of wardrobe they presented her with. Despite a short stint as a model one slow mining season, "They had to remind me I was under contract," she said, before she finally donned the scarlet bustier and posed with the rest of the cast. Like most of the genre, the show takes every opportunity to dramatize circumstances, from Anderson's model good looks, to the price of the finds the prospectors are making to, of course, the weather. But the real stars of the show are the amazing finds as they are unearthed, and the audience vicariously experiencing the thrill of discovery.

The process of crystal and gemstone formation began about 40 million years ago, so Lake George and environs had a claim to fame far earlier than "Prospectors." Lake George is located in the Pikes Peak Batholith, an unusual geological formation which lends itself to crystalline structures while forming, says Jeff Noblett, Ph.D., a Professor of Geology at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

"The show is remarkably well done," he commented, and said he especially enjoyed the early episodes, where they clearly explained the geology of the area and what makes it so special. "This is one of the few areas in the entire world where amazonite, with its unique blue color, is found," he said. "It's the prettiest," Noblett noted, but added, "There are also about 50 other unheard-of minerals in this area."

Professor Noblett explained that when the batholith cooled, it left vapor-rich pockets high in the unusual chemistry unique to this area, and the minerals grew into those pockets according to what chemistry was present. In addition to amazonite and smoky quartz, you



Miner Joe Dorris shows some of his finds.

can find fluorite, topaz, silver, gold and other valuable gem stones along the Front Range. "The Colorado mineral belt runs from N.W. of Denver down across the San Juan's into Saguache, where we find things like the aquamarines on Mt. Antero," he said.

While the science may not be of interest to everyone, the gemstones certainly seem to be. Amanda Adkins Anderson, a 20 year prospector from a mining family, who has claims on Mt. Antero and is often featured in Season 2, agrees. "There was some kind of phenomenon going on even before the show," she said, "but the show just rocket launched it. I can barely keep up," (with the demand), said Anderson. Her company, "COLORADO ROCKS", has been doing on-line roll outs of her best specimens to create interest for the next big gem and mineral show in Tucson the beginning of February. Anderson does two other shows, the Denver show which was just held in November, and the New York-New Jersey show in April. Last summer she was asked to be a part of the first show held in Victor, CO, to help promote it. "I did really well there, I think we'll be back next year," she said.



Aquamarine crystals in matrix at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

One man has been displaying at shows for over forty years. Martin Zinn, who started collecting rocks as a Boy Scout 60 years ago, describes his exhibit as a "Mineral and Fossil Show", and says his shows are some of the best established in the U.S. Asked about Tucson, he says, "There are over 45 separate venues, and you can't possibly see them all, even in two weeks." Some of them require special credentials just to enter. Collectors from all over the world bring their finest specimens, not necessarily for sale, but just for others to see and enjoy. Zinn does ten shows a year. "It's a nice lifestyle but for five months out of the year I work very hard indeed."

Zinn has been friends with Lake George miner and mineral dealer Joe Dorris and his family for over 20 years. The Dorris family is "totally, incredibly wonderful," he stated, "Of course, working with Joe means working with his family. They are very special." Zinn describes Joe Dorris as "the hardest working, most honest mineral dealer that I am aware of."

The Dorris family and their "Smoky Hawk" claim are featured often on Season Two, and one of the smoky quartz and amazonite filmed finds from their "Icon" pocket has been appraised at over \$300,000. Dorris feels he owes a lot to Martin Zinn, whose promotion has brought world class collectors to the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. "He really supports the venue," he said. "We're very appreciative of his efforts." Dorris claims not to know much about sales

and promotion, and says their website, www.PinnacleMinerals.com, is mostly informational. He relies on shows like Denver and Tucson to promote his finds. "Tucson is the most unique venue, for any industry in the world," he said. Over 40 countries are represented. "We have a common language to tie us together," Dorris explained. "That's minerals. I don't know a single word of Chinese but I can sure talk rocks." He says it is very rewarding to have a specimen of his find its way into someone's collection, somewhere in the world.

Dorris filed their present Smoky Hawk claim in 1998. Prior to Lake George, he prospected in places like Montana and Alabama. He came back to Colorado in 1983. It wasn't until six years ago that the Smoky Hawk claim really began to produce.

Thanks to earth movements and the time period involved of millions of years, few of these pockets are found intact or in clean condition. While Joe Dorris concentrates on the claim, son Tim, age 29, spends most of his days doing "lab work". He is the one who carefully reconstructs the finds as they originally grew in the pocket. He carefully and painstakingly cleans each specimen until it resembles its original condition.

Tim also enjoys mining, although when he was younger, he says, "I just hung around and played while they worked," on the claim. But around age 11 or 12 he began to find some good specimens of his own and he was hooked. At 15 he began seriously participating in the family shows and learning about selling minerals, then he learned about the fitting and reconstruction process. It can take 18 months to get one specimen ready for market. For instance, the six figure find from the "Icon" pocket will not be ready for display for another year. Nowadays, he says, he does "absolutely everything" and he plans to continue in the family business.

Dorris' daughter Krystal, 27, also was rock hounding "before I could walk." She described finding a new pocket as "an incredible feeling. No one else ever set eyes on it before, you are the first person who has ever seen that (pocket)". She is planning on continuing in the business as well, and next summer she will be learning to operate the heavy machinery. "I'm looking forward to it, it's one more skill to acquire to help the family," she explained. Krystal said she is "crossing her fingers" that there will be a Season 3, still undecided at this time. "It's fun, a unique experience," she said of the show. Krystal says she "intends to continue the Dorris legacy around the world."

The eldest Dorris son, Scott, is attending the Air Force Academy, like his father did, and not currently involved in day-to-day operations.

Thanks to a great local cast and amazing finds, the show took off in a big way and seemed to fill a niche in the fantasy lives of thousands of "armchair" prospectors, to judge from comments on the Prospectors Facebook page. "It's The Weather Channels best original programming prime time premiere, and its debut episodes are now TWC's top performing Long Form telecasts in 2013," said a spokesperson from TWC. The worst problem this season was new episodes being pre-empted by severe weather in other parts of the country, but TWC says it will have the ability in the future to only pre-empt in the specific market area the severe weather is occurring. "It's been our mission for 30 years," a spokesperson said. "TWC's highest priority is its commitment to providing viewers with the most complete coverage of severe weather."

You can see a 439 lb. Lake George smoky quartz, which took eight men to move into the building, and other local mineral specimens at The Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum at 18033 Teller I in Florissant, winter hours Saturday 10a.m.-4p.m. and Sunday 1p.m. to 4p.m.

Next installment: More about Amanda Adkins Anderson and introducing the Busse family of Salida, who mine Mt. Antero and are "going nationwide" with their jewelry, as well as tips on how you can get started prospecting.

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Simple Holiday

by Danielle Dellinger

The Whicker family was what some might call plain. They didn't have a lot to their name, but that didn't matter to them. The only thing that mattered was that they had each other, and stuck together as a family. They arrived in the town of Hartsel, Colorado in 1890 by way of the Colorado Midland Railway, which had been finished only three years earlier. The father, Jason, was going to be working at Hartsel Depot, helping to load and unload cargo. The two kids, Belle and Shane, weren't too excited about being in this tiny town out in the middle of nowhere. Though, Shane was more optimistic because he would be allowed to help his dad, and explore all over the town, even if there wasn't much to it. The mother, Anna, wasn't so sure that making this move was practical, but they didn't have many other options. They had fallen on hard times while living in Colorado Springs. Jason figured that going somewhere that no one else really knew about would be a great way to start fresh, and hopefully prosper.

Anna, a city girl at heart, looked around at the flat, dry land with glum despair. Geographically, Hartsel is at the center of the state and is often called "The Heart of Colorado." She doubted that her heart would ever be at home here. She peered around the eastern edge of the Hartsel Depot and sighed when she only saw a few buildings and a hill rising up behind the town. This was a terrible idea. How could they ever prosper out here when even the grass seemed to be struggling to survive? She turned back when she heard Jason calling for her, Belle and Shane already at his side with their small bags. She picked up her own bag and followed them to the road. She grumbled in her mind when she saw that they had to walk a ways to their new home. She watched her black shoes get scuffed with dust and dirt as she put one foot in front of the other. They weren't the most expensive shoes around, but they were all she had, and she took pride in keeping them clean.

Their new house was relatively close to the holding pen used by the depot for livestock. Anna wrinkled her nose at the faint smell of manure. They finally stepped into the simple, three-room house. She told the kids to put their things in the second bedroom, then she followed Jason to their room. At least she found the simplicity of the house charming. She put their bags into the closet to be unpacked later and turned to Jason who was looking out the window at Pike's Peak in the distance, his hands on his hips. She stood and watched him, still very much in love with him, even if his uncontrollable gambling at late-night poker games was the reason they were here.

He must have felt her watching him, because a moment later he turned to face her. "Annie," he said his voice deep and soft. She smiled a little at his nickname for her. "I know this isn't what you wanted, and I'm really sorry for that. I'm sorry for all the trouble and hurt I've caused you. Give me this chance to make it right." He walked toward her, stopping in front of her.

She gazed up into his kind eyes. "I know you're sorry. I just don't see why we couldn't have lived in one of the mining towns. There's not much here for us to prosper off of."

He put his hands on her shoulders and then pulled her into a hug. She listened to the strong beat of his heart. "I hope to be a cattle rancher. Samuel Hartsel, the guy who started this town, has a huge ranch here, Hartsel Springs Ranch. If I can befriend him, then I can learn from him and start my own ranch; maybe here, or somewhere closer to a city so you'll be happy."

Anna sighed. "I hope your plan pays off. I don't ask for much, or really need much, but I want

to give our kids as many opportunities to be successful as possible."

"Just give me some time," He sighed. "But I can't wait to see what you do to the place for Christmas. You always find a way to make it special, even though we don't have much."

Anna smiled. "I can't wait to see either. I had to sell most of our Christmas decorations in order to help buy the train tickets." His hold tightened on her for a moment. "Sorry, didn't mean for that to sound like it did."

He shrugged, then chuckled quietly. "I deserve it."

She stepped back and looked up at him again for a moment. She then leaned up and kissed him softly to remind him that her love for him hadn't wavered. They didn't break the kiss until Belle and Shane started shouting that they could see the train coming into town. Anna pulled away and looked out the window to watch it. Jason glanced at it, then looked back to Anna.

"I'll go to the depot and see if I can start work. I'll be home this evening in time for supper," he said, leaning down to kiss her cheek. He then walked swiftly out of the room toward the front door. Shane chased after him, wanting to help, but Jason instructed him to stay behind and help his mother. He whined and pouted, sulking back into the house and slamming the door shut.

Anna sighed and came out to the living area and got a fire going in the large fireplace. She sat on the open hearth and poked at the logs to help them catch fire. The kids began squabbling and she ordered them to go unpack and set up their room. She would check on them in an hour. Whining and huffing, they stormed away and shut themselves in their room. Anna looked after them, rolling her eyes. She loved those kids, but there were times when they really got under her skin. She got up from the hearth and started organizing the living area.

The sunlight slowly drained out of the room and into a pinkish glow in the sky. Anna had prepared a nice meal with the food they'd brought, and had set the table, one long white candle lit in the middle. She and the kids sat around the table, waiting for Jason.

The candle had burned nearly halfway down the stick, and the fire was burning low in the fireplace when Jason finally walked in. Dust was smeared on his clothes and sweaty face.

"Sorry, Annie. Fences needed fixing on the livestock pen," he said as he went to the bucket to wash up.

Anna looked to him and smiled tiredly. "You're home, that's all that matters."

Autumn faded into winter. The simple house had a simple problem: drafts. There were several occasions that they would all sleep on the same mattress in the living area in front of the fireplace. Shane and Jason would take turns waking up and putting another log on the fire. Nearly every day, Jason and Anna would argue about the draftiness. Jason spent many nights sitting at the table, watching his family sleep. He counted all the reasons why he loved them and would do anything for them. The truth was they just didn't have the means to fix the drafts. He wanted to renovate the house, and maybe then Anna would be happy and feel like this was home. He felt all this pressure to make things right with her, but he kept screwing up. She had high expectations of him, and she honestly didn't ask for much, so the least he could do was try to meet those expectations and be the best man he could be. He made up his

mind to make this Christmas the best one yet for all of them.

With just a couple weeks before the big day, Jason borrowed a horse from a neighbor and set out to go get a tree. The ones around town were too big, and he needed a relatively small one. Anna waved good-bye to him as he trotted off through the mostly powdery snow. The dark grey clouds loomed on the horizon, and Anna silently hoped that he'd make it back before the snowstorm hit. He was only going around the hill, so it'd be possible for him to make it back before dark.

Anna did everything she could to stay busy so the time would pass quickly. She had never spent more than a day or so without Jason, and the thought of him being gone longer made her palms sweat and her breathing hitch in her chest. When the sun set, the snow had already begun to fall. She stood at the front window, watching and waiting and wringing her hands together.

"Jason," she would softly whisper at times, as if that would bring him galloping home with or without a tree; she didn't care at this point.

The wind waged war against their drafty structure, and she and the kids huddled in front of the hearth after dinner. It was growing late into the night, and the later it got, the more the worry settled into their stomachs. But it didn't take long for the kids to fall asleep against their mother with her arms around them. The worry prevented her from sleeping for very long, if at all, throughout the night.

When light returned to the world, the storm still raged on. With still no sign of Jason, Anna dressed as warmly as she could and made the slow journey to the neighbor's house Jason had borrowed the horse from. Her heart fell when she learned that the horse had not been returned, and no one had seen Jason. The wind felt like a gritty stone wall against her face. She begged the man to help her look for her husband, but he said it was best to wait until the storm was over so they had a higher chance of recovering his body. Anna stared at him, horrified. How dare he assume that Jason was already dead! She angrily turned away and walked back to the house.

A few days later when the storm finally moved on, the snow drifts were as high as a grown man's chest in some areas. Anna couldn't get up and make breakfast. She lay there staring at the door with hollow eyes. What if he was dead? What then? At least this town had a shot of being home with him around. She sighed heavily and shut her eyes, a tear sliding down to the tip of her nose and dropping onto the pillow. A while later, her kids finally roused her and convinced her to make breakfast and to carry on with things as normal.

Nearly a week passed, and one night Anna was helping the kids get ready for bed when furious pounding came from the door. She told the kids to get in bed. She went to the door and answered it, opening it only a crack to keep in the warm air. It was the neighbor who had assumed that Jason was already dead. She didn't give him the most welcoming of looks.

"Ma'am, pardon me, but we've found him," he said hurriedly. "They're bringing him here now."

Anna opened the door up more and peered down the road. She could see a few lights slowly coming toward the house. "Jason," she muttered. She looked back to the man, eyes wide. "Bring him in when they

get here." She stepped back inside and was about to shut the door, then, "And sir, thank you." He nodded then left.

She went to the kids and told them to sleep in their room, that they'd see why in the morning. She bustled around getting things ready. It felt like only a minute later when the door opened and they carried Jason in over to the bed. Anna saw that he was barely conscious. His fingers, toes, and nose were dark with frost-bite. She knelt by him with a warm cloth, dabbing his face. "Sweetheart, you're home," she said, watching his closed eyes shift.

"Annie..." he rasped through severely chapped lips.

She smiled softly, trying not to cry.

All through the night she knelt by his side and cared for him. Near mid-morning, he opened his eyes and weakly looked up at her. "Sorry... Annie..." She shook her head and lightly touched her finger to his lips. "But I got the tree..." Her laugh was choked, but nevertheless it was a laugh. She leaned down and kissed his forehead.

The kids finally got to see their dad when Anna called them for breakfast. They all sat around the mattress while they ate and talked. Anna spoon-feeding Jason oatmeal. They had just barely finished the meal when a knock came from the door. Belle ran to answer it. Anna looked over to see a few neighbors with a beautiful tree standing outside, and Belle standing inside with shock. Anna laughed and invited them in. They set up the tree in the corner and the kids ran around trying to find things to hang on the branches. Not much covered the branches when they were done.

"Let's make ornaments," Anna suggested, getting out a box of old scraps of yarn, paper, and cloth. The kids cheered and gathered around. The three of them got to work while Jason watched happily.

By Christmas morning the tree was decorated with unique creations. Carolers could be heard singing a few houses down. Anna hummed along with them as she gathered the presents and brought them over to the bed. Before the move, Jason and Anna had managed to buy one or two things for the kids. The rest were homemade, including what the kids gave to their parents.

When all presents were open and the kids were in their room playing, Anna turned to Jason and laid down beside him, snuggling.

"You're my guardian angel, Anna. I only survived because of you," he said a minute later. "I swear I heard you whispering my name over and over in my ear. And every time I heard it, I grew a little warmer."

She shook her head. "Let's not talk about it."

"But it's true." He glanced at her then stared at the ceiling, falling silent a while. "Are you happy, Annie?" he asked finally, looking to her.

"I am. You're home, that's all that matters."

He smirked. "Do you think you'll ever like it here?"

She shrugged then smiled. "Well, home is where the heart is, and my heart is with you so wherever you are is home. And I guess there's no better place to have a hearty home than here in the heart of Colorado."

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The wild rose

by Ciena Higginbotham

The wild rose is a fascinatingly useful plant and can be very easy to find in Teller County. Wild roses, *Rosa spp.*, are deciduous shrubs that can grow up to three feet tall. They thrive in a variety of locations, including forests and prairies, dry or moist areas. Some subspecies of wild rose prefer sunnier places to grow, like the Nootka Rose, while others prefer the shade, such as the Dwarf Wild Rose.

The prickly rose stems are adorned with beautiful flowers that bloom in June. While the majority of the flowers are pink, a few wild roses come in white or red. Each perfumed flower has five petals that blossom until August. The leaves are alternate with five to nine leaflets. Its bark is green when the plant is young, but as it matures, it turns red and then brown. The rose's fruit—called hips—are round and range from scarlet to purple. Each rose hip contains an abundance of seeds. Because of this, Native Americans considered the plant as famine food.

The wild rose has been used for a variety of things throughout the past. Native Americans used the pithy stems as arrow shafts. During World War II, the British and Scandinavian people collected multiple tons of rose hips to make vitamin C syrup when oranges could not be exported. Three rose hips have as much vitamin C as an orange and are also very rich in vitamin A, K, B, and E. They can be eaten fresh or dried, but if eaten fresh, the inner seeds should be removed or their tiny hairs will irritate the digestive tract. Drying removes the hairs, as does cooking. The fruit is used in tea, jam, jelly, syrup, and wine. The beautiful pink rose petals can also be eaten as a snack and will help relieve colic, heartburn,



The wild rose can be found in Teller County. Original artwork © by the author, Ciena Higginbotham.

headaches, and mouth sores. A root concoction, mixed with sugar, was made into syrup and used to soothe a sore throat.

Roses are such beautiful and very versatile plants. They are enjoyed by everyone. So the next time you see one of these flowers, don't forget to stop and smell the roses.

About the Author: Ciena Higginbotham is a youth member (Pebble Pups) of the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, Lake George, Colorado. She is a 15-year-old 9th grade.

Jr. Conservator program

The Teller-Park Conservation District is offering its final Junior Conservator program of the year for children grades K-3. The program consists of an hour-long "learning & fun" session on the topic "Snow, Snow, Snow!"

This session will include an activity that reinforces the topic of snow and the water cycle. Registration is limited to 24 children. All participants will receive a special Jr. Conservator patch for their participation.

To register, contact the Teller-Park Conservation District at (719) 686-9405, ext 104. Sessions take place at the district's secondary office location on Rampart Range Road between the Middle School and the High School.

The mission of the Teller-Park Conservation District is to act as a resource for information and to provide services to the landowners of Teller and Park Counties for the conservation of natural resources. Part of our mission statement includes providing information and education on all sorts of natural resource issues, including erosion control, weed management and water quality, and information relating to soil and water conservation efforts—not just to landowners, but also to school-age children in our district.

The Teller-Park Conservation District was established in 1942 after the Dust Bowl years.

Early ice fishing

by Jeff Tacey

With the onset of December, ice fishing season will be here any day now. It all depends on the weather. The colder it gets the earlier the ice forms. The best ice fishing is first ice and some of the best reservoirs are in Teller and Park counties.

Antero Reservoir is one of the first to freeze. There's a lot of hungry trout in Antero and it gets fished hard on the weekends, so try going during the week. First light is the best time to fish. Find a spot where the weeds aren't too thick and start jigging. Jig with one pole and let the other pole sit, dead stick.

Next to freeze is Tarryall Reservoir; the trout aren't as big in Tarryall as Antero, but there willing biters. There are also northern pike in Tarryall and Colorado Parks and Wildlife want you to keep all the pike you catch. Small ice jigs with meal worms, wax worms or power bait works good.

Skaguay Reservoir also has northern pike and various trout. The fish are willing biters here, too. Lightweight ice rods with four or six pound line work well. The action can be fast and furious here. My favorite is Elevenmile Reservoir, where



Here's a rainbow trout I caught last year at first ice. It was 28 inches and 12 pounds.

the trout grow big. Northern pike, Kokanee salmon, and small mouth bass are also present. Use sucker-meat or water dogs for the pike; dead stick works best. Jigging works well for the trout.

Make sure the ice is safe before fishing on it. Check the 2013 Colorado fishing regulations for all rules.

Other far off reservoirs to try are Blue Mesa, Taylor Park, Green Mountain, Dillon, Delaney Buttes and Lake John.

PPRH Senior Circle Christmas party to be December 6th!

On Friday, December 6, Pikes Peak Regional Hospital will be hosting the 2nd Annual Senior Circle Christmas party. It is being held at the Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

The luncheon will feature Chef Paddy's "Cherry Glazed Ham" with all the fixin's, live music with renowned Piano man and entertainer, "Skip Moore," a visit from Santa, fun door prizes and much more! The luncheon is free to Senior Circle members.

To make a reservation, please contact Karen Earley at 719-686-5802 or email her at karenearley@pprh.net.

Did you know you only have to be 55+ to be a Senior Circle member? We offer a wide variety of activities, medical screenings and other services to enhance your wellbeing plus provide you with a chance to meet new friends. You also receive a 20 percent discount in our cafeteria for a one-time fee of \$5 (that's it, for the rest of your life.) Go to our website www.PPRH.net to learn more about it. We're on Facebook, too!



A Swingin' Deuzer photo by Karen Early

Mountain Top Cycling news

by Deborah Maresca

The Mountain Top Cycling Club and 46 community members were on hand at the Open Public Meeting of the Pikes Peak Area City Council Government Regional Non-motorized Transportation System Plan held at the Ute Center November 12th in Woodland Park.

Participants added comments to a printed map via post-it notes. The general focus was on setting context describing how the PPACG Regional Non-motorized Transportation System Plan is one component of the PPACG 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), how projects prioritized for the next six years through the PPACG Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP), how they are funded, and the importance of public input to identify/prioritize the right projects for each community. The necessity of incorporating equestrian needs into the Regional Non-motorized Transportation System Plan was also brought up.

On-street and multi-use trail access to these types of facilities will be addressed in the regional non-motorized transportation system plan because access to these important destina-



tions is a benefit. Our region is similar to others, in that our non-motorized system is used for multiple purposes - commuting and recreation.

Additional information about PPACG (and their mission) can be found on their website at <http://www.ppacg.org/> Community members can continue to be involved by reviewing the website for updates, adding infrastructure-specific input to the website at <http://www.walkbikeconnect.org/> or sending general comments through the <http://www.walkbikeconnect.org/> email icon link or by emailing travel@ppacg.org.

Guffey students visit Florissant Fossil Beds

Classes learn about geology at the National Monument

by Mrs. MacDonald's 3rd-5th grade class
photo by Lynda MacDonald

On Tuesday, November 19, the whole Guffey School went to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to learn about geology. We went to learn about fossils. In the fossil lab we got to look through microscopes. A fossil can be very small like a piece of a leaf. It can also be very big like the huge stump of a redwood tree. We saw all shapes and sizes of fossils.

"My favorite part was the fossil lab," said Sheri. "It was cool to see all of the fossils. I liked that some of the bugs were just the same as they were when they got smashed in the rocks."

"I saw a wasp fossil. It was awesome!" said Stormi McAlear. "I also liked the spider fossil."

Next we got to see the huge stumps that Florissant Fossil Beds is so well known for. We learned that a volcano made a lahar that slid down the mountain and covered the bottoms of a huge redwood forest that lived here millions of years ago. We learned that the lahar formed from ash and snow or rain. That is how the stumps became petrified. Also the lahar formed a dam and ash went into the lake carrying insects, fish and leaves. That is how the very tiny fossils were formed. There are more tiny perfectly preserved fossils found here than just about any other place in the world.

"I liked the triplets. Do you know that they are the only known fossilized triplets in the world?" noted Collin Neumann.

"I can't believe that redwoods grow to become 400 feet high," stated Emily Neumann. "The petrified stump was as big as a dinosaur foot."



Florissant Fossil fun lab

Long ago people did not appreciate the value of keeping this place special. They tried to take as much of the petrified wood as they could. When they dynamited the holes to get the redwood trees out, they broke the trees.

"I thought it was funny that some people would try to cut the redwood stump with a saw. They obviously didn't know it was petrified," remarked Madison Piotrowski.

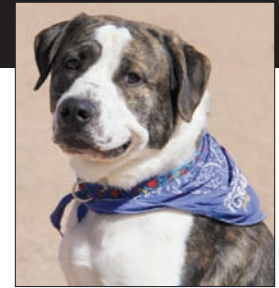
We also went on a hike around the park. We learned that the Ute tribe used the ponderosa to feed themselves. When a hunter was away from the tribe he would use the tree for food. He would cut a square and scrape the nutrients out and eat it.

"I learned that it just takes a small pinecone to grow a huge redwood tree," stated Tyler Dickens. It was a great trip. We learned a lot and look forward to coming back some day.

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Youth Writing Contest

hosted by
UTE COUNTRY NEWS

Calling all high school seniors, home school, and GED equivalent students. Cash prizes for first, second and third place each month. Plus, the top three winning entries will appear in the Ute Country News each month.

The sponsor for January's First Prize of \$100 is Kelly's Office Connection in Gold Hill North Shopping Center of Woodland Park, owned by Gail and Tim Taylor. When the publishers thanked Gail for her sponsorship, Gail said, "Tim and I believe in supporting our youth."

Both Second Prize of \$75 and Third Prize of \$50 will be sponsored by Ute Country News.

To be considered for January's issue, submissions MUST be received by midnight of Monday, December 16th. Please see rules below:

Rules:

- Contest is open to any high school senior, home-schooled students graduating between Oct. 2013 and June 2014, and to GED-test-eligible student aged 19 or less.
- Entrant must be a resident of Teller or Park County.
- Only one submission per individual per month.
- Entry must be typed in Word or pdf format.
- Entry to be submitted to publisher via email (ute.countrynews@gmail.com) or website (www.ute.countrynews.com) by midnight of the 15th of the month to be considered for the following month's contest.
- Entry length to be no longer than 1500 words.
- Entry must be an original work, never before published.
- Subject matter to have relevance to Teller or Park County (person, place, historical event, plant, animal, mineral, geographical, river, mountain, etc.).
- Submission must include contact information: name, address, email, and phone.
- Subject matter can be fiction, non-fiction, journalism, memoir, poetry, or creative writing.
- Photographs or graphics included are publisher's option to include and will bear no relevance on scoring.
- All submissions become the intellectual property of the Ute Country News upon receipt.
- Any student below the age of 18, as of the date of the submission, must have a parent or guardian's release giving permission to the Ute Country News to use the student's personally identifiable information (name, address, age, etc.) in the contest.

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Rockfall

by Mitch Walma, SARTECH with Teller County Search and Rescue

Rockfall is a natural part of erosion and life in the mountains. It is caused by freeze and thaw cycles, rain, gravity, wind and human or animal causes. Ways to mitigate danger from rockfall include:

- Recognizing rockfall hazards – visible or audibly detected rockfall, signs of recent rockfall such as sharp rocks, rocks over trails and roads, unstable talus and tracks or debris in the snow and areas prone to rockfall such as road cuts (Ute Pass), couloirs and under unstable cliffs.
- Techniques to minimize danger include

wearing a helmet, avoiding rockfall areas after sunhit, warming and rains. Don't hike directly below other hikers or wildlife. Be situation aware. Hike ridges if weather permits. In hazardous areas, send one person thru the danger area at a time stopping only in safety zones. Minimize time spent in rockfall prone areas.

- If caught under a rockfall, duck for cover behind a big rock and get as close to the cliff face as possible.
- If you cause a rockfall, shout "ROCK!" as loudly as possible to warn those below.

Visit www.tellercountysar.org for more tips.

Midland Days incorporates

by David Martinek

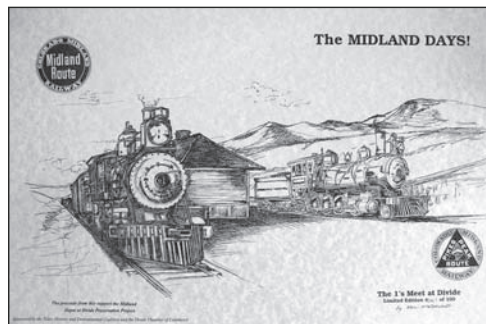
Since 2010 on Easter weekend, a small group of railroad enthusiasts have gathered at the John Wesley Ranch lodge just south of Divide to celebrate the historical legacy of the Colorado Midland and Midland Terminal railroads. From the beginning the gathering was called a symposium and the event was named "Midland Days."

On March 30, 2013 the fourth consecutive Midland Days celebration was held, and it marked the first year where the size of the railroad group attending grew exponentially. Midland Days was and is becoming popular.

As a result, the founding members decided to consider formalizing the name into a company. That decision was realized on October 31, 2013 when Midland Days at Divide, Inc. was born, a Colorado non-profit corporation.

The first major project of Midland Days at Divide will be to plan and conduct the next Midland Days symposium, the 5th annual event, scheduled for a Saturday in mid-May 2014. Later, as the organization fully rolls out its membership plans, Midland railroad fans from far and near will be able to join Midland Days as associates and supporters.

In addition to a primary mission of preserving the memory and historical legacy of the Midland railroads, Midland Days at Divide will also focus on supporting the ongoing restoration of the Midland Depot in Divide. In fact, a long-range project of Midland Days will be to convert the symposium format into an annual summer festival to be held on the depot grounds.



For each Midland Days Symposium, Mel McFarland, one of the founders of Midland Days at Divide, Inc., creates an ink-on-parchment drawing which is presented to each person attending the symposium. The first drawing (in 2010 – 'The 1's Meet at Divide') seemed to capture the overall meaning and purpose of Midland Days. drawing by Mel McFarland; photo by David Martinek

But that vision is reserved for the future. For now, Midland Days will continue to inform the public and local communities of the two railroads that brought progress and growth to the Ute Pass and Teller County areas from 1887 to 1949.

For more information about Midland Days at Divide, Inc. or the next Midland Days Symposium, email the organization at MidlandDays@yahoo.com.

Woodland Park Library celebrates 10th year with extravaganza

by Christine Ford

On Saturday, November 16, the city of Woodland Park celebrated the 10th anniversary of a community treasure, their award-winning Library building at 218 E. Midland Ave. Winner of the 2008 Colorado Facility Award of Excellence for Exceptional Existing Building, the library has a commanding view of Pikes Peak and plenty of space for community events. Saturday alone saw the hosting of an historic photo exhibit by the Ute Pass Historical Society, a showing of the world's largest book, The Bhutan Book, at 133 pounds, is seven feet wide by five feet tall, and an impressive performance by the Woodland Park Community Singers on the third floor. The Dinosaur Resource Center had a hands-on display for children, large and small, to play with dinosaurs, make rubbings of them, and color a wide variety of dino-related hand-outs.

There was something for everyone, with Stacy Bryant, aka Hokey Pokey the Balloon Lady, adding to the excitement with her colorful balloon creations, happy clown costume, and sunny personality. The Woodland Park Kiwanis were on hand, offering free temporary tattoos in the teen resource room. Both past President Nancy Ferner and current President Jeff Smith, along with Sandy Bridgewater, were there to help kids choose and apply their decorations. The "teen room" gives older kids a place to hang out after school, with both supervised and unsupervised activities, computers, video games, and a summer reading program, according to Kristen Baldwin, the youth services librarian.



Stacy Bryant, aka Hokey Pokey, with Vera Barnett, age 3.

Visitors to Saturday's festivities were treated to a rousing performance by the Woodland Park Community Singers, led by Director Mary McInnis, whose repertoire included "Simple Gifts" and "A Collection; Blowing in the Wind/America."

The Board of Trustees of the Rampart Library District, which includes Florissant, was primarily responsible for Saturday's programming, according to Ann Knowles, library director. Her early estimate of at least 150 attendees was later almost doubled, to 250. The Board of Trustees, in conjunction with City Market, provided a large selection of refreshments, including cake and cupcakes, which were enjoyed by a crowd in the large meeting room downstairs.

"Much credit goes to our Board," said Knowles, who gave a "Thank You to Our Community" speech to kick off the festivities. "We wouldn't be here without our community, both in the past and going forward into the future. We thank them for allowing us to serve."

Knowles acknowledged her director predecessors, Susan R. Quay, from 2000 to 2011, and LaVonne Leitner, 1973 to 2000. While the building may be 10 years old, a library in Woodland Park goes back to the Woodland Memorial Public Library, which began serving the public on January 15, 1966, located in Memorial Hall near the town pond.

By the mid-70's, the library had 10,000 books and circulation had increased to more than 25,000. The Board of Trustees applied for special tax district status, and the city of Woodland Park and Teller County agreed to establish the Rampart Regional Library District. The Florissant community petitioned to become part of the district in 1979. Lavon Leitner was the first Director.

After 10 years at the Lafayette Street location, space was at a premium and the Board, in the 2001 elections, was granted two mill levies,

one to construct two new libraries, the other to fund them into the future. The new Woodland Park facility opened its doors on Saturday, November 15, 2003, led by Director Sharon Quay. The Florissant branch will celebrate its ten year anniversary on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

For those who had never stopped to consider all their local library had to offer, this tour was a real eye-opener. You can browse an art exhibit. Meeting rooms are available to the public and to non-profit groups. Children have story time every Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The Resource Center, especially, showed an enormous amount of material for community support. You can take a class in Word, Excel or Publisher or just block out time to use a computer. You can book time with a personal librarian, who will help you with basic computers and software, digital photos, genealogy searches, email set-up, research and more. The Pikes Peak Work Force is there every Thursday

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and can help with resumes and job searches. The Library has the Colorado Grants Guide, and access to Heritage Quest, a genealogy service. There are literally thousands of e-books, magazines, home-school material, movies, online data bases, all in all, over 70,000 resources to offer. The days of the Library just being a place to check out hard-cover books is



Mary McInnis, Director, and the Woodland Park Community Singers

long over. If you have any questions, or want to become a library patron, call 719-687-9281, check out the award-winning 218 E. Midland Ave. location, or go online at <http://rampart.co.libraries.org>.

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The Thymekeeper - Influenza: The great myth

by Mari Marques

What it is: A seasonal respiratory illness that occurs in the winter time or during the dark months of the year. A new virus strain strikes every year. It IS a seven day illness that infects the upper respiratory cells accompanied by chills, fever and inflammatory dry cough. If not treated properly, may turn into bacterial pneumonia.

What it isn't: A superbug that can kill healthy young adults. The myth of the superbug: The myth is that from time to time a strain can emerge that can kill healthy young adults, one that can strike you down in your prime. Part of that myth is due to the flu that struck in 1918.

The influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 killed more people than World War I, at somewhere between 20 and 40 million people. It has been cited as the most devastating epidemic in recorded world history. More people died of influenza in a single year than in four years of the Black Death Bubonic Plague. Known as "Spanish Flu" or "La Grippe" the influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster.

There have been three pandemics since then with none of them having excess mortality. Pandemic just means it is world-wide; it does not indicate severity of the illness. The excess mortality from the 1918 flu was completely attributed to the influenza with no credit given to conditions in the cities, vitamin deficiencies, and other variables involved.

Eighty-five percent of the population in 1900 lived on family farms. Rickets, a vitamin D deficient disease wasn't known in the countryside. When huge amounts of populations moved to the cities, Rickets became universal. Every baby born developed Rickets due to Vitamin D deficiency in the mothers. At the peak of rickets we had the onset of the worst deadly influenza epidemic in history.

Workers would work in factories from dawn until dusk. This was before unions and the 40 hour work week. Some people would work for three weeks at a time without a day off, and not see the sun even in the height of summer. In 1918, 10 percent of the population in the east coast cities had Tuberculosis. The air was full of coal smoke. These are a few of the factors involved that aggravated host resistance to influenza at that time. The allopathic protocol for the treatment of influenza in 1918 was as follows:

- A large dose of aspirin-Aspirin is immunosuppressive. An aspirin overdose can lead to respiratory collapse. This was the first influenza epidemic that aspirin was used as treatment.
- A large dose of acetaminophen (Tylenol) or as it was called back then, acetanilide. NSAIDs (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory) are immunosuppressive.
- Opium-Opiates suppress immunity as well.
- Diphtheria anti-toxin injection. When asked why they administered this for Influenza the response was "nothing else we did was doing any good." This is also disrupting to the immune system.
- Digitalis to strengthen the heart-In 1918, they used the powdered leaf of the digitalis plant. A very unreliable treatment as cardioglycosides will degrade on the shelf so no assurance as to potency. Not a good treatment but standard in the army, and hospitals at that time.

In 1918, this was the standard medical treatment at the Johns Hopkins University for influenza in its acute stage. Today they would lose their medical license or be put in jail for criminally negligent homicide. Looking back on the 1918 pandemic, none of the above treatments were factors that contributed to survival. It was the people who were to bed the earliest, stayed in bed the longest and had the best nursing care that survived.

Today, part of the National strategy for the coming Influenza is vaccination and anti-viral drugs with no other measures being taken in the face of the coming flu season. With fear being the motivating factor we are inundated with propaganda encouraging us to VACCINATE! VACCINATE! There are flashing signs along the highway, signs in every grocery store; you can even get it for FREE! I would encourage each and every one of you to do your research before going under the needle. Know what is being injected into your bloodstream and the bloodstream of your children.

Theory

One theory on how influenza spreads is host to host transmission. I get it, cough on you and you get it; cough it on someone else, etc. This is one theory that is not supported by any scientific evidence whatsoever. In 1918, five clinical studies attempted to infect healthy volunteers with influenza. None were successful; they couldn't infect a single person with it. In another experiment,

a "don't try this at home" experiment: Some naturopathic doctors and herbalists extracted mucous from infected volunteers through coughing and mixed it with the mucous of healthy volunteers and sprayed it into the nostrils and throat of the healthy volunteers. The result was none of the healthy volunteers got sick. Not one. This appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Another theory is that everyone already has the virus lurking and it's waiting for the right conditions such as wintertime vitamin D deficiency and then the flu emerges.

Vitamin D

This should not be called a vitamin. Almost every tissue in the body has vitamin D receptors.

Normally, we get Vitamin D from the sun, absorbed through the skin. There is no way you can get as much vitamin D from food that can equal what you can get from 20 minutes in the noon day sun. The sun has to be above 45 degrees for you to get any vitamin D. The rule of thumb is this, if your shadow is longer than you, you are not making Vitamin D. If you live above 30 degrees latitude, you make no vitamin D during the dark months of the year. Between October 20th and March 20th the sun is typically below 45 degrees by noon in Colorado. When children don't get enough Vitamin D they develop rickets, the bones do not develop correctly. In adults, it manifests as Osteo Malasia AKA Bone Ache. The symptom picture is bone ache, depression, and muscle weakness. It is possible that many people who are diagnosed with depression, fibromyalgia, or chronic fatigue (although multi factorial) could be influenced by a vitamin D deficiency. For more information on Vitamin D, see Vitamindcouncil.com

Strategy for prevention

Boost your immune at every season change. Change of season is an open door for illness.

Supplement with Vitamin D from September through March, 5000-10,000 mg per day for adults.

The necessary nutrients for normal immunity are Zinc, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin E and Selenium. This is called the ZACES formula and has been proven very effective in the treatment of the AIDS virus. These supply the building blocks for your immune system to fight off the flu.

- Zinc-25 mg per day
- Vitamin A- 1 tsp of Cod Liver Oil per day will supply all the vitamin A you need.
- Vitamin C-500-1000 mg per day
- Vitamin E-100-200 IU per day
- Selenium-200 mcg per day

Avoid sleep debt. The average requirement is eight and one-half hours. The average American gets around seven hours. When we drop below eight hours we begin to see imbalances in the endocrine and immune systems.

Facts:

- Aspirin and NSAIDS lessen the symptoms but prolong viral infections. They increase the amount of virus' that are shed from infected cells and they reduce the amount of antibody production.
- Fever is a healthy immune response once you have become infected. The influenza virus is temperature sensitive and cannot live between 98 and 99 degrees Fahrenheit. Although the core temperature is typically around 98.6, the upper respiratory system is cooled by the air that you breathe. Heat up those passages using sauna, sweat lodge or steam up the bathroom if no sauna is available. The risk of fever is dehydration. So HYDRATE! Drink plenty of fluids but don't eat a bite of food during fever. Don't drink juice. Sugar is immunosuppressive and most juices on the market are loaded with sugar. Herbal teas, lemon water, and bone broth are acceptable during a fever.
- Garlic increases the number of T killer cells. T killer cells

Immune boost elixir recipe.

Ingredients:

- 2 Tsp Echinacea root
- 2 Tsp Elderberry
- 2 Tsp Elder Flowers
- 2 Tsp Boneset herb
- 1 Tsp Ginger root

In 2 cups of water, bring the Echinacea, Elderberry, and Ginger root to a low boil. Simmer until water is down to half the amount. Approximately 20-25 minutes. Turn off heat, stir in the Elder flowers and the Boneset herb, cover and let steep 15 minutes. Strain. You should have about a cup of liquid remaining. Return the herbs to the Earth or add to compost pile. If you stop here you have a strong immune boost tea. To make an elixir that even kids will like, add equal parts honey. One cup tea to one cup honey. Add one tsp of Brandy as a preservative (optional). If you don't want to add alcohol, keep in a dark bottle in the refrigerator. This yields 16 ounces or 4 four ounce bottles that you can share with loved ones for the holidays. A true gift indeed!

- 1 Tablespoon per day to kick start the immune system
- 3 Tablespoons at the onset of cold or flu

will destroy a virally infected cell.

- Smudging the air with Sage, Cedar or Juniper will kill airborne pathogens. Simply breathing in the volatile oils from the smoke will coat the membranes of your respiratory tract where virus is attempting to set up shop.
- Because influenza is a seven day illness, getting out of bed and going back to work on day four will prolong it to at least 10 days and could lead to pneumonia and other long term problems such as chronic fatigue. You MUST rest for a full seven days.
- Elders and Infants are most at risk

Next month's article will be on how to treat a fever properly. Should you have a fever before next issue is out, please feel free to call the Thymekeeper for more information 719-439-7303 or email mugsyspad@aol.com.

For more information on prevention, treatment of fever and herbal remedies to help ease you through if you do become infected, we will be having a class which includes a demonstration on how to make an elixir in the meeting room at the Florissant Library on Saturday December 14th from noon to 2 p.m. Donations are graciously accepted. Everyone is welcome. Call Mari 719-439-7303 or email mugsyspad@aol.com for more information. Supplies to make immune boost elixir will be available for sale.



Colorado is an amazing place to... "GET LOST!"

But what happens if you really get lost? Help us to be able to respond when things don't go quite as planned. Please support TCSAR by making a tax deductible charitable donation.

Did you know? Teller County Search and Rescue is available FREE OF CHARGE to those in need!

Teller County Search and Rescue:

- Dedicated to ensuring that the public safely enjoys their time spent in Teller County.
- Trained in search & rescue, disaster aid, emergency medicine, wilderness survival and education.
- Dispatched for any type of emergency including: snow emergencies, evacuations, floods, crowd and traffic control for law enforcement.
- Serving Teller County and surrounding areas for over 45 years.
- All volunteer, non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization

give! GIVE to TCSAR November 1st - December 31st indygive.com/tcsar

GIVE! is a year-end philanthropic initiative to encourage everyone in the Pike's Peak region to give back and get involved with local non profits. This annual campaign is sponsored by the Colorado Springs Independent and the Pike's Peak Community Foundation. TCSAR is one of 59 local nonprofits and the *only* Teller County non profit chosen for this years GIVE! Campaign. Please consider giving to help support your local Search & Rescue team. All donations are tax deductible.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

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Monument teen plays role at conference

Contributing author and a presenting author at the Geological Society of America's Annual Meeting

by Steven Wade Veatch

Zach Sepulveda, a junior member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society and an Earth Science Scholar in the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups broke new ground for junior members of rock and mineral clubs in Colorado, and perhaps the nation, by being a presenting author and contributing author on two technical sessions at the 125th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado during the last week of October at the Colorado Convention Center. Established in 1888, The Geological Society of America is the professional society of Earth scientists at all levels of expertise and from all sectors: academic, government, business, and industry. The Geological Society's membership brings thousands of earth scientists from every place on the globe in a common goal to study our planet and share scientific findings.

Zach was the presenting author on a preliminary investigation into the occurrence of carbonized wood in the Cripple Creek volcanic complex. This paper explored the unusual discovery at the Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company. His paper was in session number 380: Paleontological Data: From Fieldwork to Databases. Zach just turned 16 and is in the 11th grade at Palmer Ridge High School, Monument, Colorado.

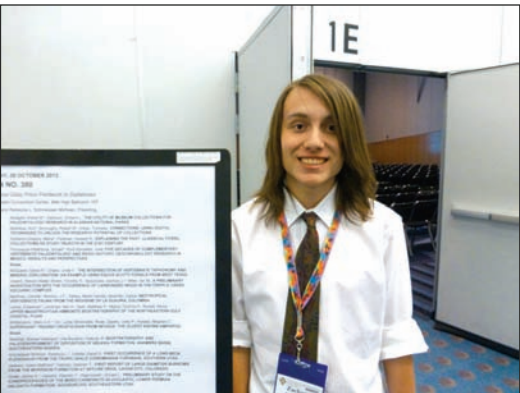
His abstract can be viewed at: https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2013AM/final-program/abstract_228610.htm

Zach was a contributing author on a paper presented by Steven Veatch: Informal Education in Geoscience: A Case Study of the Pikes Peak Pebble

Pups and Earth Science Scholars. The case study of the Pebble Pups was part of session number 393: Geoscience Education and Outreach: 50 Years of Progress II

His abstract can be viewed at: https://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2013AM/finalprogram/abstract_228760.htm

The vision of the GSA is to be the premier geological society supporting the global community in scientific discovery, communication, and application of geoscience knowledge. Their mission is to advance geoscience research and discovery, service to society, stewardship of Earth, and the geosciences profession.



Zach (above) standing by the session program board just outside the room where he is about to speak. photo © S. Veatch



The 125th Annual Meeting of the Geological Society of America has come to a close. Steve and Zach stop for a moment to reflect on the four days of meeting colleagues and ponder all the things they learned. photo © M. Schlesinger.

Fun-loving gold mine GM supports local businesses

Local Cripple Creek & Victor Gold Mining Company General Manager Ray DuBois faces off with economic revitalization challenges in Victor, Colorado, a mining community of 400 located on the sunny southern slope of Pikes Peak west of Colorado Springs.

These efforts are part of the Gold Mine's strategy to support the City of Victor's economic revitalization through participation in the Main Street Program. In 2010, the D.R.E.A.M. Team (Downtown Revitalization And Economic Acceleration Movement) was created through a partnership between Colorado Department Of Local Affairs, Downtown Colorado Inc., and the City of Victor to form a citizen-driven effort to

improve the economic environment of Victor's historic downtown. The DREAM Team and the City of Victor have completed numerous successful projects resulting from CC&V Gold Mining Company's generous support.

The most recent business promotion is no exception. The challenge is to "Find Ray!" A surprise life-sized cardboard cutout of Ray was placed in Victor's general store. Mr. DuBios was delighted and flattered at this promotion that was instigated by the local government. Upon seeing his likeness behind the counter of the general store (owned by Victor's Mayor Buck Hakes) Ray exclaimed "You just can't find good help these days!" to which Mayor Buck replied

"He's getting paid what he's worth!"

Each month citizens and visitors are encouraged to pick up a copy of the city's newsletter (or subscribe to the newsletter email list) where the monthly photograph of Ray DuBois is published. There will be a new photo of Ray's likeness each month posing in a different downtown business. Participants can then submit the name of the business where they believe the photograph was taken to enter a drawing for a chance to win a T-shirt. Entry forms are located at the Claim Jumper and must be submitted by the 25th of each month. To be included on the City of Victor's email list, please email mibarra@victorco.us



Would the real Ray DuBois please step forward.

Realtor earns Certified Negotiation Expert status.

by Christine Ford

Realtor© John Lloyd Magoon, Broker/Owner of High Country Realty at 2717 W. Highway 24 in Florissant, CO., has earned the designation CNE, Certified Negotiation Expert, in Santa Fe, N.M., on September 24th, 2013.

The CNE designation, worth twelve continuing education credits in Colorado, is a two day, in-depth course developed by the Real Estate Negotiation Institute and taught by Oliver Francona of The Educated Mind Institute. Negotiation experts learn how to better protect clients in negotiation situations, and how to maximize their client, agent and broker relationships through a number of skills which will allow Magoon to negotiate the best outcome for all parties involved with a minimum of conflict. A Negotiation Expert moves the deal forward expeditiously, with a professional competency level above the norm. As Magoon prefers to work as a transaction broker, this is an important tool for his skill set, and he anticipates it will be frequently used.

"There are many different negotiations conducted routinely in real estate. We negotiate every day in different situations," says the Institutes Handbook. They quote: "The National Association of Realtors© found, in their 2012 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, that 99% of home buyers believe negotiation skills are either "Very Important" or "Somewhat Important"

in their real estate agent.

Only 42% of all buyers felt their agent "negotiated better sales contract terms."

Only 35% of all buyers felt their agent "negotiated a better price."

Buyers give "Negotiation Skills" the lowest satisfaction rating of all agent skills and qualities.

Why aren't buyers satisfied with their agent's negotiation outcomes?

Why do only 5% of sellers look for negotiation skills in their agent?"

Asking himself these questions, Mr. Magoon realized gaining competency in this one skill could better his business to the greatest extent. Realtors© have a wide array of designations and continuing education classes available to them.

While the state has a minimum requirement of 24 hours of continuing education per each three year license cycle, including the annual Commission Update Class of four hours a year, Magoon frequently takes more, even

traveling out-of-state to do so, in order to stay on top of the fast paced, quickly changing industry. He frequently chooses those courses specifically relating to mountain property, such as water rights and boundary issues, as most of his work is in Teller and Park Counties. With more courses from The Institute he will become a Master Certified Negotiation Expert.

Mountain High Properties of CO, LLC, DBA High Country Realty, has been located on Highway 24 in Florissant since 2004. Their website is www.OhGetMeAHome.com. It is a locally owned and operated family business specializing in mountain homes, cabins, land and ranches, as well as private fishing and mineral ground.

It employs one broker associate, James Collins, (a second associate, Jennifer Reno, is currently selling in Hawaii), a full time marketing and social media co-coordinator, and one unlicensed assistant, at this time. Prior to 2004, Magoon spent five years with the Re/Max or-

ganization in Colorado Springs.

High Country Realty was in the top ten percent of sales in the Pikes Peak MLS region in 2012 and

Magoon and his wife and business partner, Christine Ford, won an Award for Excellence in Internet Marketing in 2009 from Realtor.com. Mr. Magoon currently carries about 50 listings. He averages a 70% rate of selling his own listings.

Further questions can be directed to Mr. John Lloyd Magoon at 748-1099.



John Lloyd Magoon



Discover Top-Rated Healthcare During the Holiday Season, or Any Season at Pikes Peak Regional Hospital

Season's Greetings

From Our Family To Yours



719-687-9999 | pprh.net | [f PikesPeakRegional](https://www.facebook.com/PikesPeakRegional)

~OUT AND ABOUT~

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



Christmas trees are again up for auction at the Aspen Mine Center.

- 10 Christmas meeting at Aspen Mine Center at 9 a.m. to plan for Gold Camp Christmas Dec. 12-14. Call Kathi 659-3599. Parade entry forms for Victor Dec. 13 and Cripple Creek Dec. 14 may be obtained at visitscrapplecreek.com or by regular mail please call 659-3599.
- 13 Soup for the Soul 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. (Aspen Mine Center) 5:15 p.m. Tour of the Lighted Headframes (Shuttle from Aspen Mine Center at 5:15 p.m., will return at approximately 7:30 p.m. "The Christmas Blaze" Holiday Show (Butte Theater) 7 p.m.
- 14 Christmas Bazaar (Cripple Creek Parks & Recreation Department) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sugar Plum Gift Shop (Aspen Mine Center) 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Silent Auction Bids on Trees ~ Accepted until 1:15 p.m. (Aspen Mine Center)
 - Rudolph Dash (1st Street and Bennett Avenue) 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Church in the Wildwood Bell Choir (Butte Theater) 11 a.m.
 - Cripple Creek District Museum Activities (East Bennett Avenue) 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Woodland Park Community Singers (Aspen Mine Center) 11:30 a.m.
 - Fundraiser Luncheon (Aspen Mine Center) 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 - Christmas Parade (Bennett Avenue) noon
 - Children's Activities 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Santa Clause (Upstairs), Gingerbread Ornament Decorating (Aspen Mine Center)
 - "The Christmas Blaze" Holiday Show (Butte Theater) 1 p.m.
 - Tree Decorating Contest Awards and Parade Awards, Tree Live Auction (Aspen Mine Center) 1:15 p.m.
 - Colorado Springs Chorale Christmas Concert (Cripple Creek Baptist Church) 3 p.m.
 - "The Christmas Blaze" Holiday Show (Butte Theater) 7 p.m.
- 15 Cripple Creek District Museum Activities (East Bennett Avenue) noon to 4 p.m.
- "The Christmas Blaze" Holiday Show (Butte Theater) 1 p.m.



Preparing for the parade in 2011



The Gold Camp Victorian Society was present at the Aspen Mine Center in years past

ALMA
14 Alma Community Christmas Party 4 p.m. at Alma Town Hall. Please call 719-836-2712 for more information.

ALMA S ONLY BAR
6 Better than Bacon call 719-836-2214 for more information.
13 Kris Lager Band call 719-836-2214 for more information.
20 New Speedway Boogi call 719-836-2214 for more info.
27 Selasee & the Fafa Fa call 719-836-2214 for more information.

CASCADE
7 Sewing Room Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will benefit five local families. 8815 W Hwy 24. Call Rachel 303-552-6625 for more information.

DIVIDE
9 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill - Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.
23 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill - Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.

FAIRPLAY
7 The 28th Annual Holiday Bazaar at South Park Schools. Call Lisa 719-936-0895 for more info.
7 History book signing by local author Bernie Nagy at the Fairplay Holiday Bazaar.
7 Real Colorado Christmas 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Front Street. Call Tina 719-836-2622 or see www.visitfairplay.net
12 South Park High/Middle School Music Concert 6:30 p.m. at SPHS Multi-Purpose Room. Call 719-836-4415 for more information or gw-alston@parkcountyre2.org

FLORISSANT
14 Bruce Hayes & the All Stars playing @ the Thunderbird 8pm. The Thunderbird will be closed Christmas Day.

FLORISSANT GRANGE
7 The Annual Christmas Party is December 7th from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There will be crafts, games and goodies for all ages. Sing along to your favorite Christmas carols, and enjoy Christmas Art projects. For more information call 748-0358.
14 The Last minute Craft Show and Sale will be December 14th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the best time to do that last minute Christmas shopping. We have the best crafters at our show and you can find those one of a kind gifts for your Christmas list. For more information call 748-0358.
Jam Night - Every Thursday all year the Grange Hall is open from 6:00 to 9:00 pm for the Jammers Music and Pot Luck.
Yoga - classes are held each Monday evening at 5:30 and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Call Debbie at 748-3678 for more information.

FLORISSANT LIBRARY
14 Fever prevention, treatment, and herbal remedies to help ease you through if you do become infected; we will be having a class which includes a demonstration on how to make an elixir in the meeting room at the Florissant library on Saturday December 14th from noon to 2 p.m. Donations are graciously accepted. Everyone is welcome. Call Mari 719-439-7303 for more information. Supplies to make immune boost elixir will be available for sale.

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GUFFEY
14 Bull Moose - Holiday Craft Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 719-689-4199 to reserve your space. No vender set up fee. Glen Vollmecke book signing from noon to 2 p.m. for his book "Intermission: A Place in Time". Holiday Party from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. featuring Jeff Dewell, Terry Stillwell & Casper Slicker. Call 719-689-

4199 for more information.

19 Winter Program at Guffey Community Charter School. Annual Student Production, original performances, holiday songs, food, festivities. All are invited. Call 719-689-2093 or www.guffeyschool.org for more information.

24 - Jan 9 Bull Moose will be closed from Dec 24 through Jan 9.

JEFFERSON
14 Holiday Program Pot luck dinner starts at 5 p.m., program from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Jefferson Community Center. Please call 719-836-4460 for more information or jcccolorado.org

LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIANS
15 Join us at 10:30 a.m. The church choir in conjunction with the Home School Enrichment Choir, under the direction of Christie Bovee, will present a Christmas Contata; an instrumental ensemble, with Craig Hanks as director and Rena Smith on piano, will accompany the choir. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this presentation.

24 Christmas Eve, at 5 p.m. live Nativity and Candle light service. Come join us at his Holy time of the year. Coffee and cookies will be served. The children will receive a special treat and a bag of goodies. This will be a wonderful time to celebrate the birth of our Lord with your family and friends.
27 Movie night at 6 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy a light meal along with the movie. This is free and the public is invited.

LAKE GEORGE ELEVENMILE RECREATION ASSOCIATION
28 The Winner's Circle Ice Fishing Seminar & Ice Fishing/ Swap Meet at the EMRA Clubhouse call 719-748-0317 or 11milesports.com

LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY
7 Candy Houses 11 a.m. Please call 719-748-3812 for more information.
Wed: 9am Low Impact Exercise
1st & 3rd Fri: Lake George Quilters Square 9:30-1:30pm
4th Fri: 9:15 Friends of the Library - Book Clubs "Tainted Tea" and "Titles" meet afterward.
Help U Club: We have our meetings the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Lake George Community Center, starting with potluck at noon and our meeting at 1:00 pm. We are all "Good Cooks." We are seeking new members. This would be a good place for new members to the community to meet people while helping out their community.

WOODLAND PARK MARKET
14 Inside Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Avenue, Woodland Park 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Autumn/Winter Harvest (seasonal) Fruit & Veg, Eggs, Cheese, Jams, Mustard, Meats, Dried beans, Bread & Pastries, Salsa, Pasta, Holiday wreaths, Alpaca Yarn & Knits, Soaps, Hot Soup, Tinctures, Wood Products, Skin Care, Hot Food & Drink. For more information: (719) 689 3133 or 648 7286 email: tcfma@q.com

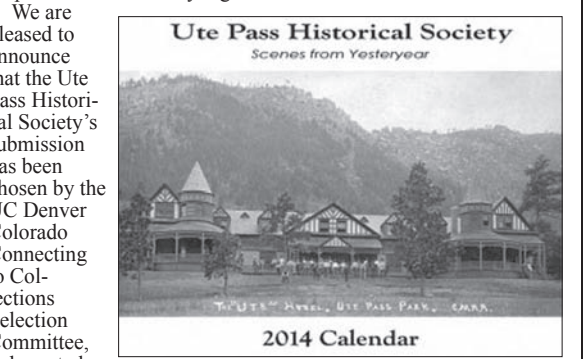
WOODLAND PARK HOLIDAY
7 Christmas Parade 6p.m.
• Christmas tree lighting
• Crazy hat contest
• Woodland Park Wind Symphony
• Gingerbread house contest
8 Woodland Park Community Singers

WOODLAND PARK CEILI CLUB
Ceils (pronounced "kay-les") are public Irish folk dance social parties. No dance experience is required, and it is open to all ages.

14 Woodland Park Community Church gym from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Admission is one new un-opened toy per family to be donated to a local toy drive. For information, or email Mickie Richardson at mountaineire@yahoo.com.

WOODLAND PARK DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER
14 Mrs. Claus Christmas Fun

UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Ute Pass Historical Society Gift Shop will be open regular hours through December, except for Christmas and New Year's Day. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come check out our 2014 Calendar before they run out! The Calendar is a collection of old photos relating to Ute Pass, and sell for \$15. We also have the Second Edition of Green Mountain Falls Stories of the Early Years available for \$20. The Gift Shop has a large selection of cookbooks, Native American art, historic books and photos, and jewelry. For more information, call 719.686.7512 or check out our website: utepasshistoricalsociety.org.



We are pleased to announce that the Ute Pass Historical Society's submission has been chosen by the UC Denver Colorado Connecting to Collections Selection Committee, to be voted on by the general public for this year's Colorado's 10 Most Significant Artifacts campaign! To vote, please go to the following website: <https://collectioncare.auraria.edu> Click on "Vote for Colorado's 10 Most Significant Artifacts", then, scroll about half way down the page to VOTE, and vote for the cradleboard. If you have any questions, or for more information, please call UPHS at 719.686.7512, or visit our website at: utepasshistoricalsociety.org.

from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Reindeer rollick, snowman dance and bells ring for a jolly good time with the dinosaurs at the DRC. Mrs. Claus will share her stories and songs and there will be treat bags for all visiting "elves". So come and join the fun! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be waiting. Included with museum admission. Call for pricing 719-686-1820 or visit website <http://www.rmdrc.com>

14, 20, 21, 22, & 23 Santa and the Dinos. Santa Claus will be coming to the DRC from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We have our craft table available for the children to make an ornament for our Christmas tree as well as one for themselves. So come and see Santa and the dinosaurs and help us decorate our Christmas tree! Included with museum admission. Call for pricing 719-686-1820 or visit website <http://www.rmdrc.com>

30 Kids Free Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children ages 12 and under will receive FREE admission to the RMDRC with one regular priced paid adult admission. Call 719-686-1820 for more info or website <http://www.rmdrc.com>

WOODLAND PARK SPIN CLASSES
6 Starting December 6th at 6:30 p.m., David Kriegshauser will conduct spin classes the PARADOX Beer Company. This is a great way to unwind after the work week and start the weekend. These spin classes are free to club members. Club membership is \$25. The classes will run from Dec. 6th to Feb. 28th, a total of 13 weeks. You bring your own trainer and your bike. David will show different cycling videos from Seek Out Cycling, you can enjoy the different trails and events from your bike and feel like you were there. The Paradox Beer Company is off Hwy 24 just past the Remax building, 106 E. Valley Terrace Suite 100, Woodland Park, CO 80866. Set up will start at 6 p.m. and be ready to spin at 6:30. Classes usually last for about an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes. Call Debbie for more information: (719) 687-2489.

UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER
5 Prospect Home Care & Hospice, 25th Annual "Lights of Love" A Celebration of Love and Remembrance Thursday December 5th at 6 p.m. Call 719-687-0549 for more information.

VICTOR
13 Elf Emporium from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at 310 Victor Ave. Parade line up begins at 5:30 p.m. at 4th and Victor. Parade of lights begins at 6 p.m. followed by party in the plaza on 3rd Street. Lighting contest winners announced at 7 p.m.

14 Elf Emporium from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 310 Victor Ave. Grand Opening of the newly reconstructed Brian's Park Ice Rink at 2 p.m. Enjoy refreshments from Santa, skating around the tree, music, and a beer garden with hot winter beverages, plus fun door prizes and a free BBQ at 4 p.m.

15 Elf Emporium from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 310 Victor Ave.
29 through Jan 1 Gold Camp Christmas Holiday Headframe Lighting.

Tips & tricks for a safe and happy holiday

by The Coalition for the Upper South Platte

The busy holiday season is upon us! As you hang decorations, plan meals, and enjoy the holiday festivities, don't forget about fire safety. This time of year has its own unique fire hazards.

Lights and decorations bring warmth and cheer as temperatures drop, but can pose a fire risk if you're not careful. Consider switching from traditional incandescent lights to LED (light emitting diode) holiday lights to save on your utility bill and reduce the risk of fire. LEDs are much more energy efficient, are less likely to break, and burn cooler than incandescent lights. If you opt to make the switch, you can recycle your old lights at Woodland Park Middle School (600 East Kelly Road) through the Woodland Park Panther Recycling Program. Whether you're hanging incandescent or LED lights, make sure there are no exposed wires. Plugging different strands of lights into different outlets is another good way to reduce the risk of overloading circuits and causing fires.

Candles are another well-loved holiday decoration, but can easily start a fire if forgotten or put in the wrong place. Follow these easy tips to make sure the flame stays on the wick:

- Never go to sleep or leave the room while a candle is still burning
- Keep candles at least 1 foot away from anything that can burn
- Make sure candles are placed on something sturdy and where they can't tip over
- Don't burn candles all the way down
- Never light a candle if oxygen is used in the home
- Consider switching to flameless candles if you want the look and scent of a candle

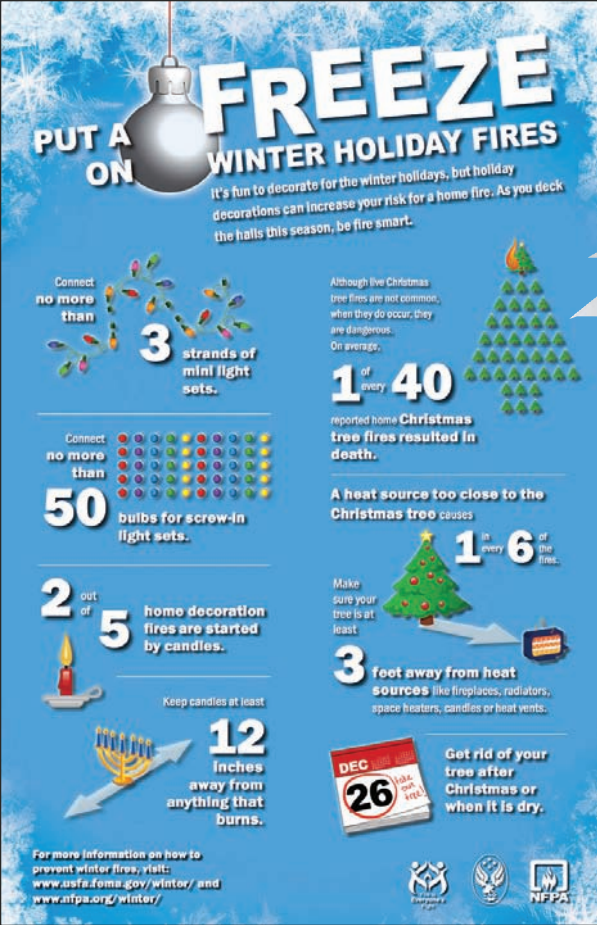
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- Test the tree you're picking out. Make sure the needles are fresh and green, not brittle and dried out.
- Cut off about 2 foot at the base of the trunk before putting the tree in a stand so it can absorb water more easily
- Make a spot for the tree that is at least 3 foot away from heat sources like fireplaces, candles, and radiators
- Water your tree daily. A dry tree is much more likely to catch and spread fire than a regularly watered tree.
- Don't keep your tree in your house, garage, or leaning against your home once it has dried out. Recycle your tree as soon as you can.

In addition to decorations, cooking all those tasty holiday treats can pose a fire risk if you're not careful. Take these precautions while you're preparing your favorite dishes:

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food



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