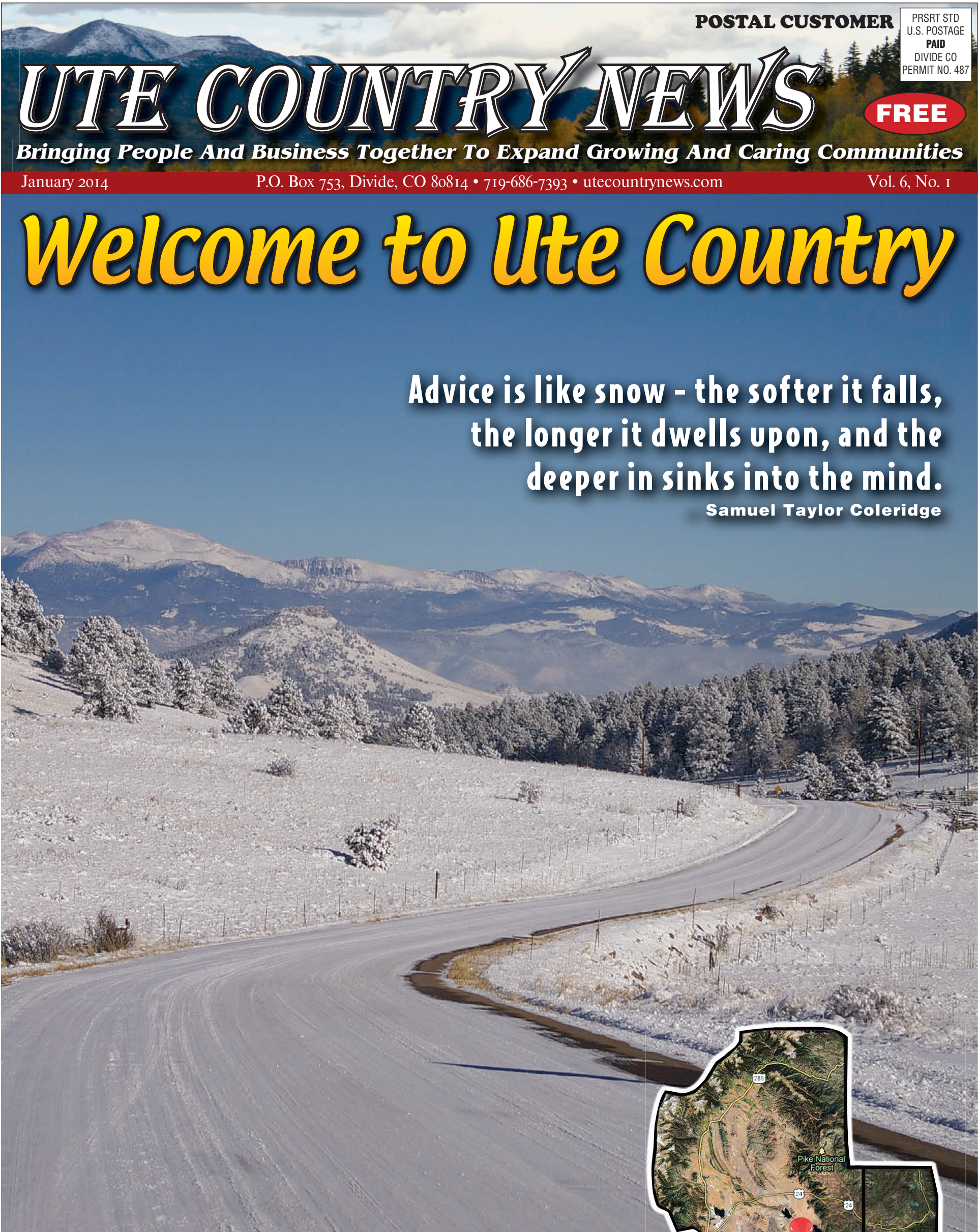


Welcome to Ute Country

Advice is like snow - the softer it falls,
the longer it dwells upon, and the
deeper in sinks into the mind.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge



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This month's cover is a photo Jeff took just north of Guffey, looking back to Pikes Peak, while we were delivering December's issue. It is amazing how a fresh layer of snow feels like a new start.

Speaking of fresh starts, a new year is before us, holding new opportunities. Our intention for the Ute Country News for 2014 is to continue to bring you information relevant to Teller and Park Counties. If you would like our readers to know about an event coming up or one that has passed, please email us at utecountrynewspaper@gmail.com and we will do our best to share.

Mr. Spaz is hoping for more Critter Corner photos to bring in the New Year. Please send them his way.

Thank you,
— Kathy & Jeff Hansen

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

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The name, Pourtales

by David Martinek

Search for the name "Pourtales" on the internet and you'll discover quite a prolific list with a history dating back to Prussian nobility, affiliation with the Talleyrand-Perigord family of France, some Swiss connections, and various counts and countesses. In fact, the multitude of Pourtales individuals who migrated to the United States, starting in the 1800s, along with numerous place and street names throughout the country, reveal that "Pourtales" (while not as common as "Smith" or "Jones") can be found just about everywhere.

Early El Paso County had at least two gentlemen of some renown named Pourtales: Count James Pourtales and Louis O. Pourtales. They were cousins.

Count James Pourtales came to Colorado Springs from Prussia in 1884 seeking fortune and romance, as well as to visit his cousin, Louis, "who was ranching some miles up Ute Pass to correct a tendency toward intemperance." Apparently, Louis had a drinking problem and ranching was supposed to be the cure.

Using his knowledge of German scientific farming, in 1885 Count James formed a partnership with a man named Willie Wilcox in an attempt to revive Wilcox's dairy farm located at the base of Cheyenne Mountain. Wilcox had started a dairy in the area around 1880. But soon James decided that the only way to make a decent profit would be to develop the area into an upper-class suburb of Colorado Springs with plenty of amenities to increase the value of the home sites. So in 1890, the Count formed the Broadmoor Land and Investment Company and purchased a 2,400-acre tract where he built a casino in 1891 to entice folks to buy lots, and a mansion at the end of Kiowa Street for himself. A small hotel was constructed a little later.

However, like so many adventures in Colorado, Pourtales ran into financial troubles when the casino burned in 1897. A second casino, a two-story affair designed by Thomas McClaren, was built in 1898, but soon after the Count faded into history. The casino and hotel later became a boarding house and a day school for girls.

Around 1918, the acreage and structures were purchased by Spencer Penrose, a wealthy Philadelphia entrepreneur who made his fortune in the gold district of Cripple Creek and Victor. Penrose established and built the Broadmoor Casino and Hotel on 440 acres which is now the Broadmoor Resort, the premier hotel and resort in Colorado Springs.



The original Broadmoor Casino and Hotel built by Count James Pourtales who formed the Broadmoor Land and Investment Company in 1890 and purchased 2400 acres at the base of Cheyenne Mountain. The first casino burned in 1897 and was rebuilt the next year. Later, in 1918, Spencer Penrose built and promoted the current Broadmoor Hotel and Resort

The other Pourtales, (Louis O.) grew up in Washington D.C. and Boston where his father was an assistant to a noted Harvard scientist. Louis came out to the Colorado Springs area in the 1880s and started ranching up along Ute Pass in the vicinity of Dr. William Bell's



Count James Pourtales

"The Green Mountain Falls Hotel opened its first season with a week end of complimentary festivities for two hundred members of Colorado Springs' best society and guests from Denver, Pueblo and surrounding locales on Saturday in May of 1889. The 'Florence Dow,' a trim little sailing craft designed to plow the raging billows of Green Mountain Falls Lake had been added to the fleet of rowboats. However, the weekend nearly

ended in tragedy. The Town Company's president, Mr. Dow, evidently carried away by the merriment of the hotel opening, rowed a boatful of passengers, including his wife and baby, up to the side of the fountain which was originally in the lake. The passengers jumped to one side of the boat to avoid the spray and the boat capsized. Fortunately, [Mr. Louis] Pourtales, the brother [actually cousin] of the Broadmoor's Count Pourtales, a gentleman who lives at Manitou Park, and a splendid swimmer, happened to be in the depot near the lake. Upon hearing the cries, he ran out, threw off his coat and plunging into the water managed by a noble effort to support the drowning ones until help came in one of the other boats."



Spencer Penrose

The name Pourtales does not appear in the Colorado Springs telephone book today, but there is a Pourtales Road which skirts a short distance along the Broadmoor golf course. In the Broadmoor Hotel and Resort's main building there is a Pourtales Hall.

(Sources: Wikipedia, USGenWeb, Broadmoor.com)

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The Thymekeeper - Fever Phobia-Don't fear the fever!

by Mari Marques

What it is: Fever, also known as pyrexia or febrile response (notice the word response) is a HEALTHY immune response to bacterial or viral infection. It plays a crucial role in the body's defense against infection.

What it isn't: A disease or illness. Perhaps the misconception can be tied back to Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever. Scarlet fever is a streptococcal bacterial infection accompanied by fever. Typhoid Fever is also a bacterial infection of the salmonella type accompanied by fever. These misnomers imply that fever is the culprit or the disease.

Fever can be one of the scariest symptoms of infection. Often times when dealing with infection, the long question becomes what to do about that fever. The worst possible thing you can do is to reach for the bottle of aspirin or NSAIDS (Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as Tylenol or Motrin). Virus and bacteria prefer a normal temperature over a fever as they are temperature sensitive. If you suppress the fever you are suppressing the body's natural defense against the invader.

FACT: Degree of fever does not correlate to the severity of the illness. Fever can be productive and help you recover from infection. Seeing a high number on the thermometer is an indication that the infected person has a strong vital force to be able to mount such a robust response to infection. Treat the person, not the number. Your goal is not to go from 103 degrees down to 100 degrees. Your goal is to make the person feel comfortable while the fever does its work to rid the body of infection. Let's look at the physiology of a fever. There are 3 clinical stages or phases of fever.

• **Stage 1:** Onset. Once the individual becomes infected, the hypothalamus gland resets the core temperature "set point" up to 102 or even up to 104 degrees. Rarely will a temperature rise over 105 degrees Fahrenheit. In many respects, the hypothalamus can be regarded as a thermostat. In this stage of fever the body thinks it is in hypothermia, the complexion becomes pale as vasoconstriction (narrowing of blood vessels beneath the skin) occurs in an attempt to stop heat loss through the skin. The patient will begin to shiver in an attempt to encourage the muscles to generate more heat. Some will experience body aches, headache, & malaise. The best treatment at that point is to help the body's core temperature reach the new set point so take a hot shower and get into bed. A drop of peppermint oil on the temples or a cup of feverfew tea will help relieve the headache. Once the core temperature reaches the new set point, the patient will feel less chilled. Elder berry, Elder flower and Bonesea tea can help lessen the severity and length of the fever. Historically Bonesea herb was used as an ally for Breakbone Fever or Dengue Fever known for its severe joint and bone ache.

• **Stage 2:** During this stage the temperature reaches its highest level and the patient feels hot and dry. Thirst, restlessness, dryness, and constipation can occur. Urine will be scanty and dark. The biggest concern with fever, vomiting, or diarrhea is dehydration. It is EXTREMELY important to keep the person well hydrated throughout all stages of a fever. Rather than

insisting they take in lots of liquids at one time, it is more important to give frequent small sips. Besides offering water and herbal drinks, give them electrolytes as well. Flavored pedialyte is not recommended due to the inclusion of high fructose corn syrup which is immunosuppressive. Ice chips may be soothing at this point but NO SOLID FOOD until the fever is below 99 degrees. You'll want to preserve all your energy to fight the infection, not focus on digesting food.

A cool wet cloth over the forehead will help bring relief in this stage. Yarrow tea with a bit of honey can help dilate the blood vessels so heat can escape through radiation. It will also help you sweat as another cooling mechanism. Marshmallow root drink as a beverage will cool, soothe and coat the mucous membranes as a defense mechanism to keep bacteria out of dried membranes. It can also increase your capacity to hold water if the patient does become dehydrated as water is very quickly eliminated in that situation. The patient could feel loopy during this stage, I've personally had barnyard animals walk through the wall (hallucinations can occur).

Degree of fever does not correlate to the severity of the illness. Fever can be productive and help you recover from infection.

• **Stage 3:** At this stage temperature returns to normal. Either quickly which will result in soaking the bed with sweat or gradually as commonly occurs with Influenza. At this point it is ok to give bitters to tonify the tissues that have become floppy and lax during fever.

FACT: Fever does not cause brain damage. In a person with a normal functioning brain, and the ability to cool oneself, fever is normal response to infection. Every normal brain has an internal "thermostat" that will prevent a person's temperature from getting high enough to cause brain damage. It is only when hyperthermia, or heat stroke, occurs when damage to the brain and other organs can happen. Hyperthermia occurs when an individual is not able to cool oneself (as in a closed car on a summer day.) Fever due to illness in a normal child will not cause organ damage.

Symptoms of dehydration include very dry mouth, no tears when crying, no sweating, a child that has had a dry diaper for more than three hours or if older, hasn't urinated in over 6-8 hours, dizziness, dark urine, a depressed fontanel in infants, depressed eye sockets and skin that has lost its elasticity. If your child is experiencing any of these symptoms take them to the Emergency Room.

FACT: Oral temperatures 98.7° to 100°F (37.1° to 37.8°C) are normal temperature variations—often peaking in the late afternoon and evening. The same fluctuation will occur during fever but do know there are some fevers that will require a visit with the pediatrician.

• A child who is less than eight weeks old and has a fever of 100.4°F or higher should be seen by a physician immediately
• It's important to seek care when fever persists after three days in infants and children, any fever in a baby three months old or less, and if fever is over 104 degrees.
• A child who has a compromised immune system
• If there is no clear source for the child's fever (no cough, runny nose or known pain) and the fever has lasted for two to three days
• If a fever lasts for more than five days, see a physician, even if your child looks well.

HELPFUL TIPS:

• The individual's body is controlling the temperature and it's going to fluctuate no matter what you do. Don't awaken a person from a deep sleep to give medications or herbs for the fever. Sleep is more important.
• Take oral temperatures when possible and rectal ones when not. Ear, sticker, pacifier and temporal artery thermometers are not reliable. Stick to a digital thermometer for the best accuracy. As far as how frequently a fever needs to be checked, once or twice a day is sufficient.
• There is not a maximum number on the thermometer that means go to the emergency room, unless your patient stops drinking, urinating or responding well. But if they are doing all three, you can monitor them from home.
• Don't use rubbing alcohol as this can be absorbed into the skin. Give fever reducers only if your child feels uncomfortable, not solely to reduce the temperature. Don't alternate fever-reducing medications, as this could lead to overdosing or excessive medication that your child doesn't need.

Limit Sugar Intake: Popsicles are a popular treatment with fever and are loaded up with high fructose corn syrup. Nothing suppresses the immune system like sugar. In fact research has shown that eight tsp of sugar, or the amount found in one soda, inhibits your immune system by 40 percent for a minimum of five hours. It also depletes important vitamins and minerals that are needed for immune function, notably vitamin C. Herbal popsicles are easy to make and a great way to introduce soothing, cooling herbs.

Using these techniques we are supporting the body's natural responses. When we take measures to suppress natural immune responses it could lead to serious long term problems down the road.

This just in!
"After receiving reports of patients experiencing delirium, psychosis and hallucinations, US FDA staff recommend that flu drugs, Tamiflu and Relenza should carry warnings about possible side-effects." See full article here: medicalnewstoday.com

Research shows that over use of the flu vaccine and drugs like Tamiflu and Relenza can actually alter flu viruses and cause them to mutate into a more deadly strain. Couple this with drug resistant strains and you have virtually no benefits with a lot of risk.

Feel free to contact Mari, the Thymekeeper, at muggyspad@aol.com or by calling 719-439-7303 to purchase herbs or for personalized information.

Electrolyte Blend

Quart of water
1/2 teaspoon of salt (sea salt is best)
1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
2-3 tablespoons of honey
juice of half a lemon

Mix all the ingredients together (you may need to heat the mixture slightly to get everything to blend well). Then drink often as sips.

This recipe originally comes from Doctor and Herbalist Aviva Romm.

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Rampart Range Library news

by Antonia Krupicka-Smith

With the holidays past us, often we look to the future and set our New Year's Resolutions. Some of the most commonly set resolutions are to get fit, lose weight, eat healthier, and manage stress. Starting in January the Rampart Library District will be focusing in on ways to help you achieve these common goals.

A new program series will begin on January 10th for Adults called the Get Active Series. There will be 3 programs, one each week, that will focus on indoor fitness programs. The first will be focused on the dance fitness program Zumba. The Woodland Park Parks and Recreation department has lent us their Zumba instructor, Sharron Johnson, to talk about what Zumba is, who does Zumba, and to demonstrate some simple Zumba moves. If you have always wondered what Zumba is all about, stop by January 10th at 2 p.m. in the Woodland Park Library's Large Meeting Room to learn more. On January 17th at 2 p.m. the Get Active Series will continue with a look at the practice of Yoga with instructor Nancy Stannard. Nancy will talk about the history of yoga, who does yoga, different types of yoga, and demonstrate some simple yoga poses. Finally the Get Active Series will conclude on January 24th at 2 p.m. with a look at Tai Chi. A presentation will be given on the beginnings of Tai Chi and demonstrations will be done by the popular Woodland Park Tai Chi group.

If you would rather learn about these fitness programs on your own, you can always view one

of our many instructional videos available for check-out from either the Woodland Park Public Library or the Florissant Public Library. We also have many books available that detail the history and health benefits of these and other fitness programs as well as instructions on how to get started.

Also in January, we will continue to offer basic computer classes at both the Woodland Park Public Library and the Florissant Public Library. In addition to the usual classes, we will be offering two new classes. In January there will be a Facebook 101 class to help all of you already signed up with a Facebook account become more familiar with what you can do and how to be responsible Facebook users. In February we will be offering a Resume Basics class. In this class you will learn what should and shouldn't be on a resume and how to put together a solid job application packet to help you land the job. Both of these new classes will only be offered in Woodland Park.

Other programs offered will be storytimes on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in Woodland Park at 10:15 a.m. and in Florissant on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Florissant's themes for January will be Snowflakes, Shimmy & Shake, Shapes, Seals, and Shoes & Socks. Florissant will begin to have a dance party at each of their storytimes in January and Woodland Park will try out Yoga at some of their storytimes. Woodland Park Public Library's popular Lego club will also continue to meet on Friday afternoons from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Eagle Days photo contest

by Abbie Walls

Calling all photographers! Colorado Parks and Wildlife wants to see your work! The agency is hosting its 3rd Annual Photo Contest in conjunction with the Annual Eagle Days Festival at Pueblo State Park.

Professional and amateur photographers are encouraged to enter. Photos must be of landscape or native wildlife taken in the southeast Colorado area. Prizes will be awarded in both categories and each category will have two age groups: youth and adult. Photos can be dropped off at Lake Pueblo State Park, the Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo or the Pueblo Zoo. The deadline for all entries is 4 p.m., Jan. 24, 2014.

Winners will be announced at 7 p.m., Jan. 31, 2014 at the Lake Pueblo State Park auditorium. Professional animal photographer Debbie Barnes will also give a presentation and light refreshments will be served.

Please go to www.eagleday.org for more information on the photo contest and Eagle Days. The festival is Jan. 31 through Feb. 2.

Financial resolutions for the New Year

About 45 percent of Americans usually make New Year's resolutions, according to a survey from the University of Scranton. But the same survey shows that only 8 percent of us actually keep our resolutions. Perhaps this low success rate isn't such a tragedy when our resolutions involve things like losing a little weight or learning a foreign language. But when we make financial resolutions — resolutions that, if achieved, could significantly help us in our pursuit of our important long-term goals — it's clearly worthwhile to make every effort to follow through.

So, what sorts of financial resolutions might you consider? Here are a few possibilities:

- Boost your contributions to your retirement plans. Each year, try to put in a little more to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plans. These tax-advantaged accounts are good options for your retirement savings strategy.
- Reduce your debts. It's not always easy to reduce your debts, but make it a goal to finish 2014 with a smaller debt load than you had going into the new year. The lower your monthly debt payments, the more money you'll have to invest for retirement, college for your children (or grandchildren) and other important objectives.
- Build your emergency fund. Work on building an "emergency fund" containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid account that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for emergencies, such as a new furnace, a major car repair, and so on. You might not be able to finish creating your emergency fund in one year, but contribute

as much as you can afford.

- Plan for your protection needs. If you don't already have the proper amounts of life and disability insurance in place, put it on your "To Do" list for 2014. Also, if you haven't taken steps to protect yourself from the considerable costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, consult with your financial professional, who can suggest the appropriate protection or investment vehicles. You may never need such care, but that's a chance you may not want to take — and the longer you wait, the more expensive your protection options may become.
- Don't overreact to market volatility. Too many people head to the investment "sidelines" during market downturns. But if you're not invested, then you miss any potential market gains — and the biggest gains are often realized at the early stages of the rally.
- Focus on the long term. You can probably check your investment balance online, which means you can do it every day, or even several times a day — but should you? If you're following a strategy that's appropriate for your needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you're already doing what you should be doing in the long run. So there's no need to stress yourself over the short-term movements that show up in your investment statements.

Do whatever you can to turn these New Year's resolutions into realities. Your efforts could pay off well beyond 2014.

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

Annual community cook-off

by Maurice Wells

Saturday, January 25, at 5 p.m. is the date and time for the 2014 Annual Community Cook-Off and Tasting Party sponsored by the Friends of the Lake George Library. Those bringing dishes to enter should arrive at 4:30 p.m. This year the event will be held in the Lake George Charter School cafeteria. A \$5 donation is requested from those attending.

The theme for this year is "Casserole Party" so pick your best recipe and enter the competition. For additional information contact 748-3812.

Dog sled racing coming to Divide February 8-9

by David Martinek

Two days of dog sled competition are slated to take place in Divide the weekend of February 8 and 9, 2014. The event will start at the Hayden Divide Community Park and will include a number of races of different lengths stretching into the Clark Ranch acreage and possibly farther. Produced by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, the racing is part of the 13th Annual Rocky Mountain State Games competition, and the second year in row that dog sledding has been included.

Dog sled racing is a winter sport most popular in the Arctic regions of the United States, Canada, Russia, and some European countries. It involves the timed competition of teams of sled dogs that pull a sled with the dog driver, or musher, standing on the runners. The team completing a marked course in the fastest time is judged the winner.

There will be 11 divisions open to Colorado mushers and their dogs in the Divide competition. Admission to watch the races is free to the public. Spectators enjoying the action over the two days can bring their own dogs along, too, but they must keep them on leashes and away from the race course and competing teams. Though not the famed Iditarod in Alaska, to be sure, the slate of races will provide good family entertainment and will range in length from one to eight miles.

Among the divisions, three one-mile "sportsman" races will feature sledding, skijoring (on skis) and canicross (on foot) formats. Sprint, canicross, skijoring and freight (where the dogs pull a specific weight in a sled) competitions will be scheduled in the eight longer races, as well. The races will be staged from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, allowing both spectators and competitors alike to get back home in time to watch TV coverage in evening prime time. The region's official Olympic broadcast television station, KOAA-TV, will feature the races.

While the main portion of the Rocky Mountain State Games will be held next summer on two weekends, July 18-20 and July 25-27, the Sports Corporation was eager to add new sports to the program. They jumped at the chance to add dog sledding to the schedule and offered to produce the first ever winter sport in the 13-year history of Colorado's largest sports festival.



The Rocky Mountain State Games Dog Sled race is produced by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation. The race organizers are the Colorado Mountain Mushers, and the races are sponsored by the Highlands Center in Divide. (Photo contributed by the Colorado Springs Sports Corp.)

The dog sled races will be held on the same weekend that the 2014 Olympic Winter Games begin in Sochi, Russia, according to Mike Moran, Senior Media Consultant for The Colorado Springs Sports Corporation. The Sports Corp annually produces major sporting events, such as the Rocky Mountain State Games, the Pikes Peak International Hill Club, the Colorado Springs Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and dinner, the Olympic Downtown Celebrations, as well as celebrity sports lunches.

While the Rocky Mountain State Games Dog Sled races are produced by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation, the race organizers are the Colorado Mountain Mushers, and the races are sponsored locally by the Highlands Center in Divide.

Mushers interested in joining the competition can visit www.colomushers.org to register. A prize purse of \$1000 is promised for race winners, although the one-mile "sportsman" classes are not eligible. In addition, if spectators want to take a look at the new sport, there will be a dog sled demonstration held in Acacia Park in downtown Colorado Springs on Friday, February 7, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. as part of the Sochi Olympic Downtown Celebration.

For more information visit the Sports Corp's website at www.coloradospringssports.org or email Mike Moran at mike@thesportscorp.org.

Making snowmen

by Renee Caldwell



Kids had fun making snowmen!

Granger and Teacher Leisha Lanz took a Grange project to her second grade class room last week. The children, with supplies supplied by the Florissant Grange, took some time from lessons to make sock snowmen. These cute little guys are made from one white sock, some stuffing, a rubber band, scrap flannel and colored sharpies. Ms. Lanz and her class had a great time and the children got to take home some very cute snowmen.

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Dyersville

by Linda Bjorklund

John Lewis Dyer was the eldest child of Samuel Dyer and Cassandra Foster Dyer, born on March 16, 1812, at the Dyer homestead in Franklin County, Ohio. The family faithfully practiced the Methodist religion, which, to the end of his long and fruitful life, was John Dyer's heritage. In 1831 the Samuel Dyer family, by now blessed with eight children, packed up and left Ohio for the wilderness of Illinois, with son John holding the reins to the four-horse schooner.

John felt the 'call' to the ministry when he was but 18 years of age, but it was 25 more years before he became ordained as a traveling preacher representing the Methodist Episcopal Church. Studying the trials of Old Testament Job, young John doubted he could withstand the privations of the ministry.

Meanwhile he met and married Harriet Foster, a neighbor of "sweet disposition," in 1833, and they became parents of Joshua the following year. A second son, Elias, was followed by a daughter, Elizabeth, and a third son, Samuel. Failing crops in Illinois caused John to look to the lead mines in Wisconsin, to which he moved his family in 1844. His beloved wife Harriet, weakened by the hardships of frontier life and having born five children in 13 years, died in 1847 at the age of 35. Following her in death a short two months later was their 13-month old infant daughter.

Stunned by his losses and now nearly destitute, the young father met a young widow and married her only five months after Harriet's death. Sarah Whiting, however, neglected to mention the fact that, although her previous husband was dead, her first husband was indeed alive and well, from whom she had never been legally divorced. This was devastating news to the faithful John,

who immediately left Sarah and obtained a divorce in 1850. John felt he had disgraced himself, but continued to look after the woman who had deceived him. Sarah lived alone, and was frightened one night after a number of rain showers. John

being away preaching on circuit, she ran to a neighbor's for safety. When she returned to her own home, she was caught in rushing floodwaters and drowned. Her body was found lodged in driftwood the next day.

John's sister Rachael was pressed into service to act as mother to the four bereaved children. John continued to preach over several years and it wasn't until the children were nearly grown that he decided to take up the ministry. He was sent to the Pike's Peak region on behalf of the Methodist church in 1861, walking the entire distance from Omaha, Nebraska, to save money. He arrived in South Park and began to preach wherever he could get anyone to listen among the miners looking for gold in the Rocky Mountains. His income being limited to whatever he could glean from collection plates, John made many trips on "snowshoes," the name for skis made from barrel staves and strapped onto sturdy boots, before he finally accepted the job of carrying mail over the mountain passes to make barely enough to live on. He became well known in the gold regions as Father Dyer—the title 'Father' being attached to any man who preached in the gold fields. He

traveled all over South Park for several years, then was sent to New Mexico, but returned to Colorado eventually and homesteaded a quarter section near Castle Rock.

Continuing to preach, Father Dyer was traveling the circuit and met a widow, Lucinda Rankin, whom he fell in love with. Fifty-eight year old John Dyer married 43 year old Lucinda at the Methodist Church in Denver in 1870. Father Dyer continued to preach in the area in and around South Park until the Methodist Conference sent him to the Breckenridge Circuit in 1879. It was a tough circuit, even for seasoned Father Dyer, and he was reduced to supplementing his meager salary by locating claims for would-be miners in the mountains he knew so well.

It was during 1880 that the Warrior's Mark mine was located. Father Dyer became acquainted with two young men, Candell and Tompson, and helped them to establish the Warrior's Mark after it was discovered to be rich in copper. Father Dyer retired from the ministry in Breckenridge in January of 1881 and began building a log cabin home at a location six miles south and east of Breckenridge, at Indiana Gulch, which happened to be just over the summit from Boreas Pass, as well as a scant half-mile from the copper mine. He hauled materials in with horse and sled and built the story-and-a-half home to which he moved his wife and possessions in February.

Several other homes were built in short order and the town was named Dyersville.

Hoping to finally settle down and enjoy the quiet peace of his beloved mountains, Father



Section House at Boreas Pass 1970s photo by Ed Everhart source: Libby Everhart

ridge and found information in forest service files at the Ranger Station in Fairplay about the narrow gauge C & S Railroad that went that route. Tales of the railroad, the towns of Hamilton and Tarryall, the Roberts cabin and the Section House at the top of Boreas Pass just had to be told. I made several trips over the rugged mountain road finding the sites and taking photos.

On one occasion I was determined to find the site of Dyersville and the nearby Warrior's Mark Mine, to see what was left. I parked the car and set off on foot, taking the trail from a point just over the Breckenridge side of Boreas Pass. The path staggered back and forth about half a mile, past the shell of what looked like an old barn that I imagined could have been the Angels Rest at one time. Then I came upon the Creek, across which I could plainly see the few buildings that at one time had been the town of Dyersville. A couple of logs had been placed across the creek, so I gingerly began stepping a balancing act to get to the other side. Midway across, the logs gave way and I found myself thigh-deep in the running creek water. I at least had the presence of mind to raise the camera above my head. I waded the rest of the way, took a quick look at the building remains and snapped a few photos. I picked a more sturdy looking log and returned across the creek without further watery incident.

In 2006 the forest service had decided to station people at the Section House and open it up to tourists. I volunteered to spend four days a week that summer dressed as a pioneer woman and acting as a 'docent' to tell stories to travelers about the history of the area. The book "Over Boreas Pass" had been completed and was offered for sale to customers along with other souvenirs of history. The Dyersville story is one of the chapters in that book.

My only means of communication to the outside world was a radio that transmitted using frequencies from the Badger Mountain towers. I dutifully radioed in to the forest service office every day when I closed up the building to tourists and tallied up the receipts.

All the water was hauled in and food was stored in a cooler with a package of ice. There was a solar panel that provided enough power for a couple of lights, but not enough for my computer, whose batteries soon became depleted.

Most evenings I built a fire using the old cast iron cook stove that did double duty of providing heat for the night. I was usually able to read a few chapters before the competition from hundreds of thousands of miller moths forced me to turn out the lights, snuggle down into a heavy duty sleeping bag and listen to the silence of Boreas Mountain broken only by the howl of an occasional coyote.

Dyer was soon to be disappointed by the arrival of one Jerry Krigbaum. A rowdy and fun-loving character, Jerry built the Angels Rest, an eating and drinking establishment, in the summer of 1881 on the hillside close to Dyersville. The noise and celebrating of customers, especially the revelry of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, served to drive the Dyers out of their home. By early December the next year, John and Lucinda had moved to their homestead in Castle Rock. Lucinda suddenly passed away in 1888 and John was again bereft. She was buried in the family plot in Castle Rock along with a number of other family members who had over the years come to live near there.

Father Dyer continued to travel the circuit preaching as he aged, sometimes hobbling to the pulpit with the help of canes. He finally grew ill and died in the spring of 1901 at the ripe age of 89, indomitable to the last.

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Rita's place closed

by Flip Boettcher

photo by Flip Boettcher

Saturday, December 21, the winter solstice, was the last day of operation for Rita's Place, located in downtown Guffey, according to Rita Mick, owner/operator.

Mick opened her dream restaurant, Rita's Place, on Election Day, 2004, and has been the chief cook, bottle washer, accountant, menu planner and shopper for the nine years since.

While Mick believes Guffey needs a restaurant like hers, she just can't do it anymore, she stated. Mick was hoping that someone from the community would come forward and accept the challenge, she added.

When Mick first started the café, it was a go/no-go proposition, sink or swim, and the first two years were a real struggle, she said. Now though, it would be a turnkey operation. Over the years Mick has built up a clientele of locals and out-of-towners. People come from Colorado Springs and Canon City for lunch and early dinner. She is very proud of the clientele she has built up.

According to Mick, not only is her business for sale for \$20,000, but the entire building is for sale by the owner Holly Remington. The building is one of the newer ones in town and on one of the bigger lots. If someone bought the building they could expand the restaurant, put in a bigger kitchen, or live in one half. Since Rita's Place has quite an extensive menu, Mick suggested someone starting out with a much simpler one.

For now, Mick plans on remaining in Guffey. Mick plans on getting her masters degree and certification in Arabic translation, she said. Arabic was her first language and she speaks and understands it although she does need some brush up she said but can't read or write it.

When she came to the United States from Lebanon at three years of age, it was more important to learn English. Mick wishes now she had learned more Arabic from her grandmother.

Since Mick already has her bachelor's degree, she stated, she had the drive to take two years or less to get her masters.

To start, Mick plans on taking online classes and eventually work from home. The job market

Rita at home, relaxing in front of her Christmas tree.

for Arabic translators is very good Mick stated and this was a job she had a chance of retiring from.

Mick stated that she would like to travel more; travel offers the best education in life.

Even though it's sad, scary and exciting, Mick has no regrets closing the café. Mick stated she had been in and out of the restaurant business all her life and the café was a nine year dream, an incredible learning experience, which took passion, imagination and determination she said, but it is time to go.

Many local residents have expressed the fact that they would really miss Rita's Place.

According to Pat Erick, manager of the Bull Moose Restaurant and Bar, they are thinking about changing their hours in light of Rita's closing, but nothing definite. The Bull Moose will be closed through January 9, when they reopen. For more information about road conditions openings and closings call 719-689-4199.

Joanne Pontes, manager of the Freshwater saloon said that they were not thinking of changing their hours. Their winter hours are: Monday and Tuesday Closed; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 4 p.m. to closing; Saturday and Sunday noon to closing. For more information call 719-689-0518.

Anyone interested in buying Mick's business, the whole building, or would like more information, call: 719-689-2501.

Saddle Club ready to begin work in Divide

by David Martinek

According to Woodland Park Saddle Club president Tay Jeffords, the organization has met all local and state compliance, planning and zoning issues necessary to begin construction of a new facility just south of Highway 24 in Divide. The next step will be to re-submit requests for bids from contractors, which is expected to occur during January/February. Bids were requested in the fall of 2013 but due to the late season few responses were received.

Ground-breaking, earthmoving and construction activity is expected by 2014.

The last hurdle was gaining permission from the Colorado Department of Transportation ("CDOT") to alter Highway 67 to accommodate the facility entryway.

"CDOT requires that we create a deceleration lane at our entrance because the speed limit on Highway 67 in that area is 55 miles per hour," said Jeffords. "We are asking Teller County whether the speed limit can be lowered to 45 miles per hour, at least from the spotlight at Highway 24 to the end of our property line just south of the water tower. But a separate turn lane is probably a good idea anyway considering the potential traffic we expect, like trucks and horse trailers, coming into the grounds."

Construction at the entrance, located on the west side of the Highway 67, will require power poles to be moved, as well as preparations for utility extensions into the property. A ten-inch water line will also be installed under the highway which will connect the site to Divide's central water system to provide needed water service and fire suppression. Due to the topography along the highway at that location, the club expects their excavation to accommodate the deceleration lane and entrance will provide enough fill dirt to level out the valleys in the interior.

Meanwhile, the club's 23-acre property in Woodland Park between Walmart and Safeway is still for sale, although they continue to hold

Artist's Rendering – Proposed Indoor Arena (designed by Langley Architects – Butler Construction Services, LLC)

events there. Even though that property has not yet sold, the club has ample finances to fund the first phase of their new facility – including the entryway, roadwork, utilities, the outdoor arena and parking and dry camping areas.

The second phase of the Saddle Club's master plan for the 40 acres of former Maytag and Kuyper properties includes a large indoor arena with a multipurpose floor, among other amenities, that will allow a variety of rodeo and equestrian, and even non-equestrian, events and activities.

"Once we're established in Divide we feel there will be some community partnering opportunities with the Midland Depot project there, as well as possibly with the Teller County Fair," added Jeffords.

As for when the club will choose a new name, and what it may be, Jeffords said that issue is not yet a high priority, although a number of suggestions have been discussed.

The Woodland Park Saddle Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is operated by a board of four officers and seven directors, along with volunteers. The club currently has over 100 members. There are a variety of ways for interested persons to contact the saddle club. Their mailing address is P.O. Box 9005, Woodland Park, zip 80866. Their telephone number for general messages is (719) 687-9975, or email them at info@wpsaddleclub.com. And their website www.wpsaddleclub.com is rich in information.

Map Store on the move!

by Julie Andrews

MacVan Map Company opened in a new location Jan. 2, 2014 at 1045 B Garden of the Gods Road in Colorado Springs. MacVan Map Co. offers cartographer services and is a map publisher, retail store, and map distribution company owned by Kenneth H. Field. It was founded in Colorado Springs in 1978 and specializes in mapping Colorado, including Southern Colorado. The phone number remains (719) 633-5757 or (800) 473-6277. Its web site is macvanmaps.com.

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Real Estate Review

2013 saw great gains in the number of homes and land sold and prices are going up finally. Reports show nationally we've had some of the biggest jumps in values since 2005, and Teller County isn't far behind - although we typically are slower than the national averages.

Mortgage rates will continue to rise, but are still historically low and should continue with the same trend. Rising rates are a sign of a stronger economy, and buyers are jumping off the fence and enjoying home ownership.

Thinking of selling? January and February are great times to put your house on the market - there is fewer competition than in the spring and rates are still good, which drives buyers regardless of the season. Staging ideas, pricing considerations and marketing strategies can be quickly reviewed if you're considering making a move - call me for a complimentary consultation at 359-1340. I'm actively listing homes for sale starting in January for first quarter sales and can include yours in my upcoming marketing.

Happy New Year!

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Joe Hamilton memorial

by Flip Boettcher
photo by Flip Boettcher

Approximately 100 people, including about 30 law enforcement officers, attended memorial services for Park County Sheriff's Deputy Joseph Hamilton on Sunday, November 3, at the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District fire station in Guffey. The memorial was hosted by the Park County sheriff's office.

Representatives attending the memorial included Arapahoe County Sheriff's Deputies, a deputy from Eagle County, Teller County Deputies, a Palmer Lake police officer, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) from the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Park County Sheriff Fred Wegener, and Undersheriff Monte Gore, Park County coroner David Kintz and many Park County deputies. Also attending was SPCFPD Chief Mike Simpson, several SPCFPD members, one of Hamilton's football coaches and one his high school teachers, as well as friends and family.

SPCFPD Chaplin, Reverend Bill Harper, presided over the ceremony which included the Park County sheriff's office color guard and bagpiper Eric Blinker of the Emerald Society in Colorado Springs. (The Emerald Society is a group of police officers that have to be of Irish or Scottish heritage to be a member, who play the pipes at law enforcement and firefighter memorials, according to Undersheriff Gore in a follow-up phone conversation).

Through stories, vignettes and memories from family, friends and co-workers, a picture of a committed, focused family and work oriented man with a sense of humor emerged, who everyone agreed definitely would be missed.

The sheriff's office presented Hamilton's widow, Wendy West (a member of the SPCFPD) with a United States flag and commemorative display box containing Hamilton's retired badge. "Danny Boy" was sung a cappella and the colors were retired as taps was played bidding a final farewell to Hamilton, after the last page out from dispatch.

Hamilton was born in New Mexico in April, 1984. He moved shortly thereafter and spent most



Park County Sheriff's Deputy presenting the flag to Hamilton's widow, Wendy West

of his childhood in Manitou Springs, Colorado, said the memorial booklet. Hamilton went to New Mexico State to learn engineering like his dad.

While on summer vacation in 2005, he met his future wife, Wendy, and her daughter, Brook, while on summer vacation and the couple lived in Manitou Springs before moving to the Guffey area and working for the Park County sheriff's office. A son was born in 2010 and a daughter was born in 2012.

Hamilton loved playing football and even played professionally for a while. Hamilton also volunteered for the CAP to do his part in the community.

Hamilton succumbed to the Hantavirus on October 14, after having cleaned out some sheds and out buildings at his new residence southeast of Guffey. Hamilton was only 29 years old leaving two small children and wife behind.

The sheriff's office was happy to be able to do something to help Wendy and the family he said. Such a tragedy stated Gore; many young, healthy people have died of the Hantavirus.

A memorial fund has been set up by the sheriff's office to help the Hamilton family. Donations can be sent to the Joseph Hamilton Memorial Fund in care of Wendy West, P.O. Box 144, Guffey, CO 80820.

Victor Lowell Thomas Museum news

Thank you all for your support of the Victor Lowell Thomas Museum in 2013. 2014 is another year of fundraising and challenge grants for the museum.

The board of directors has written grants for and received \$55,000 in challenge grants toward installing a heating system in the museum - a heating system will help protect our treasure of historical artifacts, will make it possible for us to have running water and restrooms, and make it possible for us to be open longer into the fall and winter months. In order to accept the \$55,000 in challenge grants, we need to raise \$50,000 by June 2014.

Some of our members have donated over \$13,000 in the past month toward this goal. To raise further matching funds, the museum is hosting a fundraiser Saturday, March 15, 2014.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, the event will include corned beef and cabbage dinner, dessert, silent and live auctions, and Irish whiskey tasting. The event will be held at the Victor Elks Lodge from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 15. Please save that date and join us for food and fun!

One way you can help is by donating an item or items to the auction:

1. This will be a great opportunity to start on your spring cleaning - in case you have some spare things sitting around such as antiques, artwork, collectibles, coins, plants that need a new home so your house looks a bit more tidy.
2. Please keep us in mind if you receive some unwanted Christmas gifts.
3. Or if you want to donate a gift certificate for services, tickets to events, or products that would be great.
4. Or if you want to make something special for the auction such as baked goods or craft items, please let us know.

The items will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to the museum. We will be listing the items donated as they are pledged at this link: <http://victorcolorado.com/museumauction2014.htm>

If you have auction items to donate, would like to donate food for the event, or would like to be an event sponsor, please email museum@victorcolorado.com.



Teller County Animal Control officers Trixie Hudspeth and Leslie Johnson.

BARK - new breath of air for Teller County

Teller County Animal Control officers Trixie Hudspeth and Leslie Johnson were delighted to receive their own Breath of Air Recovery Kit (BARK). The kit was sponsored by Cynthia and Larry Marty and family in memory of their beloved pets, Buster and the kitties. Their caring sponsorship of the BARK project has made the ability to save the lives of animals caught in disaster a reality in their community.

If you would like to sponsor a BARK, please contact info@earthhelp.org and help to assure that animals can also be saved in emergency situations in your area of Teller or Park County.

CASA

You can make a profound difference in the life of an abused or neglected child in the New Year. There are over 500 children who are waiting for a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer who will fight for their rights. CASA's vision is to ensure a trusted, empowered advocate for EVERY child, every day.

CASA offers training multiple times throughout the year. No special experience is necessary. All volunteers are thoroughly trained and supported. Find out more January 30th at our CASA 4-1-1.

To RSVP, contact at Kelly at 447-9898 x1033 or kellyp@casappr.org. You can also visit our website, www.casappr.org for an application, training schedules and frequently asked questions.

Lake George Charter School students hold food drive

by Denise Kelly and Maurice Wells
photo by Denise Kelly

The Lake George Charter School Student Council held a food collection drive from November 4 through 19. The students collected 1300 pounds of non-perishable food in just 10 school days. To stimulate donations a competition was held between each of the classrooms to win a pizza party. The 4th grade won with 311 pounds, the 3rd grade with 301 pounds and the 5th grade with 181 pounds.

The majority of the food went to the Divide Food Pantry at Little Chapel in Divide and 150 pounds was donated to the Community Cupboard in Woodland Park. Many community families were thankful for the generous donations and the hard work of the students involved.



Students prepare for a delivery.

Tarryall Ice Fishing Tournament



The Tarryall Ice Fishing Tournament sponsored by Chaparral Park General Store will be held at Tarryall Reservoir on Saturday, February 15th, 2014 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be cash prizes for four categories as well as door prizes. Entry fee is \$25.00 (\$30 cash only the day of the tournament.)

Free camping is available at Tarryall and

you may register at Potato Gulch Campground in the morning by 8 a.m.

Help support "A Hand up not a Hand out" food bank in Hartsel, CO, as 10 percent of all proceeds will support them. For more info contact the Chaparral Park General Store at 719-836-0308 or check our website at: www.chaparralparkgeneralstore.com, or e-mail rob@chaparralparkgeneralstore.com

ADDITIONAL INFO:

Begins 6 a.m. ends 2 p.m.
Door prizes and raffle
\$100.00 cash for first fish
\$200.00 biggest trout (by weight)
\$200.00 biggest pike (by weight)
\$275.00 trout total of four fish

**all cash prizes are based on maximum entrants of 100 in contest and will vary accordingly.

• Entry fee: \$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 (cash only) on day of tournament
• Enter online at <http://chaparralparkgeneralstore.com/> Or by mail at P.O. Box 519, Hartsel, CO 80449 Postmark Deadline Feb. 8, 2014.

• For more info or to pay by phone call Chaparral Park General Store at 719-836-0308 Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, 7 a.m. to noon.

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New Year

by Danielle Dellinger

The air was so thick with cosmic energy that it crackled. At the start of Phantom Canyon Road, just southeast of Victor, something was stirring. It was just after dusk on the first day of January, and normally the moon would be rising, but it was in the new moon stage. The night world would be pitch black. White and blue lightning cracked in the air as a shape appeared around one of the first actual bends of the road. It could've been an animal, but it stood 15 feet tall at the head while on all fours. Its body was cloudy but still see-through, and its face resembled a Rorschach inkblot test that was highlighted blue while the rest of the body was a deep black. Two sets of spiral horns sat side by side on its head, growing straight up into the air and with the two in the middle overlapping some. Its front feet were human hands, with an extra joint on each finger. The hind feet were also human, but the nails were like a dog's. The ears were long and pointed, and the tail was slim like a tiger's.

It turned its head from left to right as it looked around. It could smell the other spirits that were about to cross over to join it in the physical world. With no moon visible, the border between the physical realm and the spirit realm was weakened. The fact that it was the start of the new year as well made the border that much easier to cross. The air crackled and sizzled as another spirit appeared a half mile behind the first one. More and more began to appear after it. They weren't as tall as the first one, but their size was still nothing to scoff at. Once a large score of them had appeared, they began to march toward the town of Victor. They had come to collect.

Elena, 14-years-old, opened her eyes, gasping. With no moon, her room was extra dark. Her eyes flicked to the window, and she sat up. A big event was about to happen. She'd always been sensitive to the Other Side, the spirit realm, and recently her dreams had become rather bizarre, along with the sensations she'd been feeling. For the past month, it had felt like her skin had been crawling, an indicator that spirits were constantly around, or actually touching her, and passing through her body. Living in Victor, with its history of violent miner strikes and mining accidents, made it a great hotspot for spirit activity. Plus with Phantom Canyon Road being connected to it, which acted as a passage for more than just humans. The road followed the old route of The Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad. No one really knows how the road got its name. One theory is that some passengers on the train claimed to have seen the ghost of a man in a prison uniform, and that he had been executed a few days before at the Colorado State Penitentiary. Another theory is that the name was used in the early 20th-century in an early advertising campaign to bring tourists to the mining camps near Cripple Creek.

There were times when Elena was out walking the streets that she was overwhelmed with restlessness from a spirit whose life had been suddenly yanked away. Now as she walked to her window and gazed out at the dark landscape, she felt the same overwhelming restless energy. She could see huge, dark shapes entering the town. Her body tensed as she watched the shapes walk among the tiny buildings. She thought that at any moment they would step on a house and extinguish the life that resided there. The large leader of the group seemed familiar to her. She had seen it in one of her dreams. But to see it now in real life was terrifying. What did it want? Why were they all here? The spirit thing lifted its head and looked right at her. She gasped and dropped beneath the window sill, eyes wide and heart thudding against her ribs. The adrenaline made her legs shake. She had to get out of the house and away from those creatures.

She scrambled to her shoes and coat, hurriedly putting them on. She was about to crawl to the door when the horned head of the spirit appeared in the window. Her house was three stories tall, and she was on the top floor. The next thing she knew, its hand was reaching through the wall toward her. She screamed and backed into the nightstand. A minute later her parents came barging in, looking around with worry and confusion. The spirit's hand hesitated at the appearance of her parents, but then it resumed reaching for her when it realized that they couldn't see it. The girl screamed again and scrambled for the door. Her parents were still lost as to what she was screaming about.

Elena charged down the stairs and burst out the back door into the backyard. She hopped the low fence and took off up the road. She heard her parents calling for her. She looked behind her and saw the spirit rounding the corner of the block, loping awkwardly after her. She gasped and turned sharply, running

through the backyards of neighbors now. How does one hide from a spirit from the Other Side? She heard it making sounds behind her that reminded her of a humpback whale. She found herself on the west side of town, and sliding down into a dry stream bed. She got to a cluster of pine trees and stopped, hiding.

The spirit appeared at the top of the ridge, and appeared to be sniffing out her scent. But it was hard to tell since its face had no features to read. She hugged herself to the tree as she watched it start down the hill in her direction. It must have caught her scent. Her eyes darted all around as she looked for a way out, but the trees were too spread out to make a run for it. It picked up speed the farther down it got, as it was definitely heading right for her. She watched, horrified. The spirit started to reach for her. . .

Suddenly its hand was blocked by a golden orb the size of cantaloupe. The spirit made a grinding sound like a gear, and its hand seemed to freeze in place. The rest of its body jerked as it tried to pull its hand back. A low murmur of words filled Elena's head, and probably the spirit's, too, because it was shaking its head and yanking harder in desperation to get free. The murmuring of words resonating in her head started to give Elena a throbbing headache, and she dropped to her knees, squeezing her eyes shut and rubbing her temples. Through her closed eyes, a bright lime green light shone, and she peeked out. Lime green shackles were appearing on the spirit's wrists as it screeched and writhed in its partially frozen position. The darkness of its body slowly began to lighten to a greyish color.

Elena's jaw dropped as she watched, forgetting about her headache. Her lip wobbled a little when she realized that the spirit was in pain. "No! Stop!" she yelled, coming out into the open with her arms out to the sides. "You're hurting it!"

The murmuring stopped and the orb began to ripple.

"I am the Guard! I'm here to protect your kind! Would you prefer to be subject to this spirit's impure intentions?" the orb asked, its voice so loud with puzzlement in Elena's head that her teeth ached from the vibrations it created.

"What impure intentions?" she asked.

"To kidnap you and take you to the Other Side."

"Why?" Elena asked, frowning with shock.

"To help them fight a war against the physical world, and so they'll finally be seen by the other humans who aren't as sensitive to the spirit realm like you are. They want humans to fear them, and with your gift of being able to see them, you give them a great deal of power."

"I don't want any part in any war," she said slowly, looking from the orb to the spirit.

The spirit seemed to be gazing back at her with the same amount of puzzlement that mirrored the orb's.

"Look. I don't want anyone hurt. Please just let it go."

The orb rippled violently. "Fine. But the shackles will keep its impure nature from returning."

Elena sighed, deciding to compromise. "Fine."

The spirit made a rather metallic whining noise as it finally pulled its outstretched hand back in toward its body. Elena went to it and put a gentle hand on its arm, smiling up at it. The spirit looked down at her with its head slightly cocked to the side. Their little moment was then shattered as people began screaming and shouting from the town above them. Elena didn't hesitate at all before she started running back up the slope. At the top, she stopped and looked around in horror as the rest of the spirits wreaked havoc on the homes of the innocent.

"What're they doing?!" Elena cried.

"Either looking for you, or going ahead and starting the war with the physical world," the orb replied rather calmly as it hovered by her ear.

"No!" she shouted, running to the nearest spirit that towered over her, even though it was half the size as the leader. She waved her arms at it. "Please stop!"

It roared like a T-Rex and threw the chimney at her. With the ferocity it was thrown at, all she could do was blink and wait. But she didn't feel any pain. Instead, she looked around and noticed that the lead spirit had picked her up and was holding her to its chest. The orb appeared beside her.

"Now look what you've done. You distracted me from my duty, and now your town is being demolished by other worldly entities." Its tone was rather annoyed and exasperated.

"Then fix it! Make them stop!" she snapped, looking around to see if

she could see her house. A spirit that was a cross between a gorilla and a grizzly bear was about to rip the roof off. "Start over there!" she exclaimed, pointing frantically.

"Fine," the orb sighed dramatically, and disappeared.

Elena chewed on her lip with worry as she watched people running into the streets and turning this way and that in confusion. She realized that they still couldn't see the spirits. Maybe it was for the better. She could faintly hear the murmuring of the orb's voice in her head. She was glad that there was enough distance between them to keep her from getting a headache again. She then looked up at her new friend. "Please tell them to stop," she begged as it looked down at her, its head tilted slightly again. "Please!" Her voice jumped an octave.

The spirit turned and set her high in the branches of a tree. It then went to the nearest spirit and smacked it down. The hurt spirit cowered, looking up at it while making whining and clicking noises. The lead spirit grunted and motioned toward Phantom Canyon Road. The lesser spirit began to slink away in that direction. The lead spirit and the orb worked together after that to round up the rest of the spirits. Soon, it was a mass exodus of spirits from the town.

Elena climbed down from the tree, squinting to see the spirits disappearing into the dark. She was too focused on watching them that the sudden sound of the orb's voice in her head made her flinch.

"All done," it said. "No thanks to you."

Elena rolled her eyes and crossed her arms. "Hey, I got the lead one to help out."

The orb rippled some. "Yeah, which wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been here to bind away its impure intentions."

She growled out of exasperation. She looked down the road and saw the lead spirit sitting at the end, watching its friends disappear into the darkness of Phantom Canyon Road. "What will happen to it now?"

"Well, you're stuck with it. It'll be cast away into Chaos if it goes back with those shackles on."

"So take them off," she said with a shrug.

"Have you learned nothing from tonight, human?" Its ripples intensified. "The same thing will happen again at the next new moon phase. The cycle just repeats."

"Yeah, but it will with or without this spirit."

"True, but it won't be as devastating. The others aren't nearly as strong as this one, so it'll take them a few more new moon stages before they come back and present any real danger. Plus, the hole that this one left on the border will vanish at sunrise, so they'll have to work extra hard to get through again," the orb said, growing impatient.

Elena sighed. "Fine. I'll figure out something. You're sure there isn't another plane that it can go to?"

The orb sighed, irritated. "No," it said in a tone like a sassy teenager's.

Elena glared at the orb. "You're not very useful, are you?" she muttered, walking away from the orb and heading toward the spirit. "I heard that!" it shouted loudly in her head, making her wince. She stopped beside her new friend and put a hand on its arm. It looked down at her, and seemed to sigh heavily. She nodded, feeling the same way. She looked back down the road to look at the orb, but it was gone. She looked back up at the spirit. "Come on. You can stay in my backyard and we'll be friends, okay?"

The spirit gave a slight nod, and Elena smiled before she started walking back to her house. People were out in the streets still, trying to clean up the destruction. No one would ever be able to explain how things had gotten damaged. It made her a bit sad that she couldn't share this story with anyone without being judged. Hopefully they would all assume that it was a horrific windstorm. It was possible, considering the location of the town.

Elena finally heard her mom calling for her, and she looked up. "Mom!" she called, running into her arms and hugging her for a moment. She then convinced her parents to go inside. Elena took the spirit to the backyard, stopping once there to look up at it.

"Thank you for your help. I don't know what I would've done if I'd lost my parents," she said.

The spirit held its hand out to her and she stepped up on it. It pulled her in for a brief hug, then set her back down. They gazed at each other momentarily before Elena said goodnight and went inside. All things considered, she was glad to have a new buddy.

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The naughtiest kid on the list

by Flip Boettcher
photos by Flip Boettcher

About 70 people attended the Guffey Community Charter School's winter program, a play entitled "The Naughtiest Kid on the List" on December 19. The play was written by Alexi Alfieri and directed by school teachers Lynda MacDonald and Hillevi Peterson-Hirsch. There were 20 students in the play which started and ended with the students singing Christmas carols accompanied by a guitar.



The cast of the play.

It was one week before Christmas at the North Pole and Frances, the naughtiest kid, is arriving for what she thinks is a special week with Santa. Frances' poor intimidated mother didn't tell Frances that she was there for the North Pole Reform Program (NPRP). Apparently this is Frances' last chance to change her ways or have her Christmas canceled forever said Santa. Each day brings Frances a task to do and an attitude problem to correct.

Frances spends her first night in the barn with the reindeer, where she found that Rudolph snored and the reindeer were terribly naughty, according to Frances. With six days left until Christmas, Frances spends the day feeding and grooming the reindeer and cleaning stalls.

Frances spends the next day in the North Pole kitchen making sugar cookies. Frances' cookies, which Sprinkle and Twinkle the kitchen elves make her eat, are horrible because Frances put the wrong ingredients in on purpose.

With four days to Christmas, Frances spends the day with the sleigh shop elves Snowy and Blowy cleaning the sleigh outside in the cold weather. Frances found this very boring and needs to work on her attitude, said the elves.

Frances spent the next day at the gift wrapping station with elves Merry and Berry, purposely doing a bad wrapping job but she did learn how to make a lot of kinds of bows.

With two days left until Christmas, Frances spends the day at the toy shop with Jolly and Folly. The elves tell Frances she is rude, obnoxious, and lazy, had a bad attitude and only thought of herself. Toward the end of her day with Jolly and Folly Frances' attitude seemed to be improving a little.

On Christmas Eve all the elves and reindeer are assembled on Santa's office. Peppermint, Santa's elf assistant, calls for a vote: should Frances get a fresh start? The vote is tied when Frances and her mother enter the office.



The Fire Department with Santa handing out presents after the play.

As surprise to all Frances wants to come back next year and tells her mother she needs discipline and tough love. Learning to be nice is hard work stated Frances at the end of the play. The vote is unanimous, a fresh start for Frances.

Santa and the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District arrived at the end of the play to give presents to all the kids. The toys are part of the Colorado Springs Toys for Tots program, the Marine Corps division, according to fire department auxiliary president Doug Schellenger.

There was a cookie exchange and clothing give away before the play started and continued afterward.

Before the play, the Accountability Committee announced that they were going to put out a cookbook as a fundraiser which would be available this summer. The committee was looking for about 150 recipes. Recipes can be submitted online or hand written to the school. Submit recipes anytime between now and the Pie Palooza on February 13. Forms are at the school office or online at www.guffeyschool.org.

Starting the New Year off with optimal health

by Carol Grieve

I am not much on making New Year's resolutions that include dieting and losing weight. Diets, for the most part, don't work! I am big on making a commitment to yourself to create optimal health in 2014. Over the past year, I have written much about GMOs (genetically modified organisms), pesticides, excitotoxins, gluten and how to avoid eating harmful chemicals and pesticides. If you would like to educate yourself further in regard to GMOs or other harmful ingredients that are placed in your food supply, you can visit www.foodintegritynow.org. Since we are in a new year, why not make that commitment to yourself--the payoff could be life changing!

I have listed a few of my top favorite superfoods that I use to achieve optimal health and wellness. This is only a sampling and there are many more. It's definitely not a one size fits all as everyone's body is different. As always, do your own research on anything you put into your body. I invite you to play with some of these foods and see what works for you and most importantly, see how you feel. Here are some of the superfoods that work for me.

Spirulina

BioLumina Spirulina is the premium spirulina and a true superfood! It has been proven that you could live on this product because it is so packed with amazing nutrients. Spirulina contains Phycocyanin which is a powerful antioxidant with the highest known source of the rare immune enhancing blue antioxidant. It also contains highly digestible protein (over 90%) and in nearly identical amino acid profile to the human body; essential fatty acids, B complex & vitamins (highest known source of B-12), C, E and beta and mixed carotenoids, (exceptionally rich in beta carotene; 20 times more than carrots.) This product is also a radiation protectant and cleanser, which is important to me because of the high levels of radiation we are experiencing since Fukushima. To find out more about BioLumina Spirulina go to www.newphoenixrising.com/being_well.

Coconut Oil

There are so many benefits to using coconut oil. Specifically, you should look for "organic, unrefined, expeller-pressed coconut oil". This is the unprocessed product derived directly from the organic coconuts with minimal processing or modification. These benefits include healthier skin and hair, lower cholest-

terol levels, weight loss, increased levels of immunity, proper digestion and metabolism. It has been show to provide relief from kidney problems, heart diseases, high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV and other viruses, cancer, and bone strength. The reason it is so effective and healthy is because of high levels of lauric acid, capric acid and caprylic acid. The presence of these acids contributes to coconuts antioxidant, antifungal, antibacterial, antimicrobial and general body nourishing properties. I also use coconut oil as an eye-make-up remover and moisturizer. Coconut oil is amazing!

Chia Seeds

These tiny black seeds, cultivated by the Aztecs during pre-Colombian times, are slowly working their way into American markets. Similar to flax, chia seeds are rich in heart-healthy omega-3 fatty acids, calcium, fiber, phosphorus, and manganese. I like Nutiva Chia Seeds which can be found at your local health food market.

Kale

Kale is high in iron and vitamin K. Eating a diet high in Vitamin K can help protect against various cancers. It is also necessary for a wide variety of bodily functions including normal bone health and the prevention of blood clotting. Also increased levels of vitamin K can help people suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Kale is high in vitamin A and C. Vitamin A is great for your vision, your skin as well as helping to prevent lung and oral cavity cancers, which aids in preventing bone loss, preventing osteoporosis and maintaining a healthy metabolism. Vitamin C is also helpful to maintain cartilage and joint flexibility.

Kale has more calcium than milk, which aids in preventing bone loss, preventing osteoporosis and maintaining a healthy metabolism. Vitamin C is also helpful to maintain cartilage and joint flexibility.

Pasture Butter

Fats for the most part have been given a bad rap over the last 20 years. A low fat diet is unhealthy for most people. Pasture butter is butter from pasture feed cows. Eating organic pasture butter is an excellent way to minimize risk of exposure to antibiotics, or synthetic hormones and pesticides while obtaining a healthy dose of nutrients. The greater the percentage of a cow's diet that comes from grass, the greater the amount of unsaturated fatty acids, the lower the amount of saturated fatty acids, and the more optimal the ratio of Omega-6 and Omega-3 fatty acids in the milk. Butter made from the milk of pastured cows has also been

Carol Grieve



shown to contain increased levels of the antioxidants like beta carotene and Vitamin E.

Organic Eggs

Eggs too have been given a bad rap! How many of you have heard that eating eggs will raise your cholesterol? Do your research; this is not true! If you don't have an egg allergy, chicken or duck eggs are a wonderful source of protein and something I eat nearly every day. All B vitamins are found in eggs, including vitamins B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B12, choline, biotin, and folic acid. Eggs are a very good source of both selenium and iodine. I like pastured or local eggs the best if you can get them. Nest Fresh Free-Range Eggs have just recently been certified to be non-GMO. It's important to know your source when buying eggs and I always ask what people feed their chickens. Many chickens are feed grains and these grains are more than likely, corn or soy based which almost always means GMOs! Also, if you have ever seen a commercial chicken farm, where the chickens never see the light of day and are subject to what I consider, extremely inhumane conditions, you may think twice about buying those commercial eggs.

Turmeric

Turmeric (Curcuma longa), the bright yellow of the spice rainbow, is a powerful medicine that has long been used in the Chinese and Indian systems of medicine as an anti-inflammatory agent to treat a wide variety of conditions. The volatile oil fraction of turmeric has demonstrated significant anti-inflammatory activity in a variety of experimental models. Even more potent than its volatile oil is the yellow or orange pigment of turmeric, which is called curcumin. Curcumin is thought to be the primary pharmacological agent in turmeric. In numerous studies, curcumin's anti-inflammatory effects have been shown to be comparable to the potent drugs hydrocortisone and phenylbutazone as well as over-the-counter anti-inflammatory agents such as Motrin. Unlike the drugs, which are associated with significant toxic effects (ulcer formation, decreased white blood cell count, intestinal bleeding), curcumin produces no toxicity.

Of course, this is just a sampling of some of the foods that I consider to be superfoods. I find the "Eat Right For Your Type" diet to be a wonderful guide for creating optimal health. You can find out information about what foods work with your blood type on the internet or by purchasing Dr. Peter D'Adamo and Catherine Whitney's book, "Eat Right For Your Type". Enjoy the New Year and make 2014 your healthiest and happiest year ever!

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, got to www.foodintegritycoaching.com or contact Carol at carol@foodintegritynow.org, 415-302-7100. Phone or Skype sessions are available.



Barbara Royal

Going forward there is nothing to hide. I am unburdened, lighter in spirit, and it is reflected in peace of mind, healthy eating for nourishment, and a smaller dress for the holidays. This Thanksgiving I am grateful for seeing the light within me and being able to trust without fear!" - Sharon L.

Sharon has graciously given me permission to share her decree as well as her story. May you derive much lightness of heart, mind, soul and body from these words.

I Am Lightness of Self in Spirit.

Barbara Royal is an Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director and Certified Angel Therapy Practitioner®. She is the founder of the Miracles of Wellness method, which gives clients tools to claim blessings from heaven. She may be contacted at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com for a free initial consultation and/or session appointments, which are available by phone or in person.

Sustainability in the Pikes Peak Region

from Teller Energy (TellerEnergy.com), a program of the Coalition for the Upper South Platte

Sustainable projects and endeavors are widespread in the Pikes Peak region. Through the coordinated and collaborative efforts of various institutions, businesses and individuals, our community is working hard to assure the future is every bit as bright as the present. While by no means exhaustive, this article will highlight some of the recent successes in our area.

EDUCATION

Perhaps one of the most visible and widespread example of sustainable practices is in the education sector. Both the Park County School District and the Lake George Charter School have completed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified buildings. This certification recognizes buildings that exemplify best practices in terms of sustainable sites, water and energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, design innovation, and low-impact use of materials and resources. Not only do these buildings showcase sustainable construction and performance, they also act as teaching tools for students and as models for their communities.

Three colleges in Colorado Springs – University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), Colorado College, and Pikes Peak Community College – all have well developed sustainability programs. Their Offices of Sustainability have set goals that reach beyond curriculum and incorporate plans to address efficiency of building operations, and reduce energy and water use, greenhouse gas emissions and materials sent to landfills. Students, staff and campuses are encouraged to lower their transportation impacts, increase use of local and organic foods, and generally be better stewards of their natural environment. Both Colorado College and UCCS set aggressive goals to become carbon neutral. UCCS, in particular, has moved to retrofit and construct several new buildings to LEED standards, upgrade much of their lighting, install solar systems, and purchase a significant amount of renewable wind credits to offset their electric usage.

Colorado Technical University, District 11, Manitou Springs District 14, Academy District 20 and Cripple Creek/Victor RE-1 also have sustainability programs.

SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

El Paso County has seen an explosion in the number of solar installations recently. The Fort Carson Army base kicked off this trend by installing a 12-acre facility on a former landfill. This array was the largest on a U.S. Army base at the time of construction, and will help move the base towards its goal of projected net zero resource use by 2027. The U.S. Air Force Academy followed with a six megawatt, 41 acre facility in 2011. This array provides approximately 12 percent of the academy's electrical needs. With federal mandates requiring all federal buildings to be net zero by 2030, and the Defense Department's goal of meeting 25 percent of its energy needs by renewable energy by 2025, there is strong and urgent incentive for these facilities to beef up



their renewable portfolio – all in the name of national energy security.

In 2012, Colorado Springs Utilities began their Community Solar Garden (CSG) Pilot Program, becoming the first municipal utility in the country to do so. That year, three CSG contracts were awarded, with two, already sold-out, 500 kilowatt projects completed by Sunshare. A third project by the Clean Energy Collective, also 500 kW, still has panels available for purchase. In 2013, a final 500 kW project was awarded to Sunshare and should be completed in the spring.

In the CSG model, customers of the utility can purchase or lease as few as 2 solar panels from one of the gardens. This allows folks to participate in solar energy without the higher cost and maintenance issues of installing panels at their own residence or business. The utility then credits the customer on their electric bill for the energy those panels produce, usually resulting in a much faster payback than owning an entire system themselves. It is also an ideal setup for customers who are renters, have limited finances and can't afford a full system, or those homeowners with covenants, orientations or shading issues that prevent them from installing an array at their properties.

Beyond these large-scale solar projects, many residents and business owners in the Pike Peak region are taking advantage of the all-time low prices for solar equipment to install their own systems. Coupled with utility incentives and the 30 percent federal tax credit, solar is becoming more affordable for the average electric customer.

RECYCLING

Waste Management has been offering recycling services in the Woodland Park and Divide area for some time. While curbside service is only available in some locations, Waste Management maintains a drop-off location at the Divide transfer station as well as their Recycle America location in Colorado Springs. These facilities collect aluminum, steel and tin cans, plastics (#1-7), paper, glass and cardboard free

of charge.

In El Paso County, there are many recycling centers and services offered by providers such as Waste Management, Best-way Disposal, Wise Recycling and Blue Star Recyclers. Some of the unique services and items collected include single stream (all recyclables in one container), electronics, fluorescent lights, batteries, composting, slash, industrial metals and hazardous waste. An excellent resource for all things recycling is the springsgov.com website, under Environmental Sustainability.

A new model for electronics recycling has been initiated by Blue Star Recyclers. They collect electronics and employ people with autism and other disabilities to disassemble, separate and preprocess materials so they can be used again in manufacturing. Panther Recycling, a program in the Woodland Park School District in partnership with Blue Star, also collects and disassembles electronics, giving their special education and transfer students valuable job skills and business experience.

Recycling is an ever-growing example of sustainable practices benefiting local economies, the environment and the community.

LOCAL FARMERS MARKETS

Usually running from June to October, farmers markets have become an increasingly popular way for folks in the region to support local growers, artisans and merchants. The produce is generally grown, harvested and delivered to market in a much more sustainable way than produce at grocery stores. Some of the more popular markets are the Colorado Farm and Art market, held at America the Beautiful Park, as well as markets at Old Colorado City, Chapel Hills Mall, Doherty High School, Memorial Park, Fountain, Security and Woodland Park. An excellent site for a listing of these markets as well as an overview of Community Supported Agriculture, community gardens and cooking tips can be found at Let-tucePatchGardens.com.

SUMMARY

There are many examples of sustainability in action in the Pikes Peak region; too many to list them all here. Some of the topic areas not addressed could include transportation, economics, health, arts & culture, water and air quality, and much more. For a more complete list of the goals and activities that resonate for folks in our area, please reference the regional sustainability plan: "Looking to Our Future: Pikes Peak Region 2030," which is promoted, discussed and available on the PeakAlliance.co website.

Sustainability is alive and well in our community. Find a focus area (or several) that you are passionate about and take personal steps or join an organization to assure a high quality of life for future generations. It is both an opportunity and a responsibility for us to leave a lasting legacy – a world as good as or better than what we're given.

Opportunity - SPCFPD board vacancies

by Flip Boettcher

At the December 5th meeting of the Guffey-based Southern Park County Fire Protection District board of directors, Chairman Sam Calanni tendered his resignation from the board for personal and health reasons, he stated in his resignation letter. Calanni has been board chairman for the past five years. The remaining board members, Anita Long, Amy Mason, Harry Gintzer and Flip Boettcher, nominated and elected Mason as the new chairman of the board.

The board of directors can now appoint someone to fill Calanni's seat until the next regularly scheduled election in May according to the department by-laws. Calanni said he would remain available to help with completing any unfinished business, his letter stated.

Several other board positions will be open early next year and in the spring as well. Anita Long, board treasurer for the last six years, will be resigning in February, her letter of resignation stated, for health reasons. Long also wants to spend more time with her grandchildren and plans on traveling more.

The board will need to appoint someone to fill out Long's term which expires in May. That position will then be up for election in May.

Long suggested that someone with accounting knowledge would be helpful and Long said she would be willing to train and help anyone interested in volunteering, as she is remaining in the area.

In May, two other board positions will be open for election with terms expiring of Gintzer and Mason. Neither is running again

for their positions for the board in the scheduled May elections. That will leave four positions open for the May elections.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone to step forward and serve their community, learn how their tax dollars are spent and to learn more about emergency services in Park County.

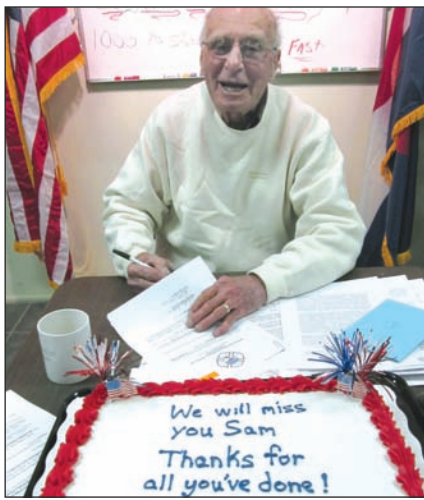
Mason is very enthusiastic about being chairman of the board she stated and would give 110 percent until her term expires.

Mason stated that the fire department was looking forward to some exciting, new things in the coming year with the new chief and more community involvement, including some medical and fire prevention programs. Things community members can do to help prevent emergencies from happening. Mason stated that she would like to see this fire department be the best, not only in Park County, but in the whole state.

The board of directors has appointed Mary Ann Melvin to be the designated election official for the May election. Anyone interested in running for the board only needs to declare their intent to run. Forms and instructions can be found on the fire department website: www.guffeyfire.net.

Interested persons are encouraged to look at the board policies, by-laws and minutes of past meetings, all posted on the website and to attend the board meetings.

The next board meeting will be on January 2 at 7 p.m. at the Guffey fire station. The board meetings are held the first Thursday of the



Sam and his cake. photo by Amy Mason



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"The fire department is only as good as its volunteers and its volunteers must come from you, the community," stated Mason.

The board would like to thank Calanni for his five years of service as chairman of the board and thank Long, in advance, for her six years of service as treasurer. The board would also like to thank those dedicated volunteers now and in the past for their service on the board, the fire department and the auxiliary, without whom there would be no fire department.

Prospectors, Season 2 Reality Show

by Christine Ford

Since the last issue of Ute Country News came out, I've heard from many people that they had no idea a major TV reality show was being filmed in Lake George and environs by The Weather Channel (TWC). What makes our area that special, they ask? What's all the fuss about?

As in real estate, it's all location! We know it's thanks to the Pikes Peak Catholic, a large body of igneous rock that forms when significant volumes of magma accumulate and cool deep below the surface of the earth, according to Matthew D. Dye, M.Sc Candidate at the Colorado School of Mines. Later igneous intrusions left empty cavities, fluid-filled "stocks" that dried into different crystals depending on what chemicals were present in the fluid. According to Dye, the Pikes Peak region has long been known in the prospecting world as one of the premiere pegmatite or crystal forming mineral collecting localities. Well, the secret is out! Rock hounding or prospecting along the Front Range is quickly becoming one of the more popular leisure time activities. (See Sidebar)

One group is those who make their living grubbing along the peaks and ridges of the Collegiatis in search of major finds like aquamarine and phenoktyes. This is a younger batholith than the Pikes Peak area. Prospector Steve Brancato was the first to bring down a major pocket from Mt. Antero, south of



Bronze arrowhead with an aquamarine is one of Peter's new gift shop designs. photo by Dana Peters

One such family is Brian and Yolanda Busse of Salida, CO., and their sons, Allen, 33, Brian Jr. 28, Chris, 26, David, 21, Elijah, 17 and 14 year old Nathan. This is their tenth season on Mt. Antero, although it took them seven years to establish their "Thank Heavens" claim and gain regular business from it. The Busses' first climbed Antero with the Columbine Gem and Mineral Society in Salida, on a field trip. They became interested in the rocks they were finding while guiding Fun Time Jeep Tours of the area and joined the club to gain expert advice. They began to study books and spend weekends rock hounding.

"They're good people," commented Ralph Eyler, current president of the Society. He remembers encountering the Busses on the trail last year during the filming of a Prospectors commercial, and especially how they had to have one of the out-of-state vehicles towed off the mountain for trying to drive too fast for conditions. "It's dangerous up there," he agreed. "You can step on a rock as big as a car and it will move." Other dangers include altitude sickness; for those not used to 12 or 14 thousand feet, usually manifesting first by light-headedness and then nausea, a good sign to reduce your altitude immediately or suffer major consequences, including death.

Now that the mine is established and producing, The Busses' have made a line of jewelry, with the assistance of Dana Peters, a master teacher in metal clay art, one of only eight in North America, who designs the settings for them. This summer the family goes beyond Salida and environs gift shops to "state-wide", with their jewelry being carried in the gift shops of most of Colorado's State

Parks, as aquamarine is the state gemstone. Next season they plan to take their line "nation-wide". Prices will range from \$25.00 to \$5000, depending on the piece and the materials used, which will include peridot, jasper, druzy, hematite and copper ore.

Dana Peters, the Guffey metal clay artist who designed the gem settings for the park pieces, is one of only eight invited Master teachers in her craft on this continent. The process, whose unique medium is imported from Japan, leaves behind pure silver, bronze and copper as a setting for the Busse family gemstones they were designed for. Some pieces are one of a kind, while other were cast for multiple pieces to sell as the gift shop line, including an aspen leaf design, a columbine, a Big Horn Sheep and one other she described as having native influences.

Peters, who is a full-time local artist, spends much of her time traveling and teaching from such varied locations as Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI to Las Vegas, NV and she will be spending a week at the Tucson gem show this year to support the Busse exhibit. The type of large scale production necessary for the State Park roll-out will be a new experience for her, one she sounds extremely excited and supremely confident about.

One look at the line she has designed will explain that. The combination of clean lines and delicacy in structure combined with the strength of the chosen gemstone is delightful. From a chance meeting at a rock show in Buena Vista three or four years ago, explains Peters, has come about something magical.

Yolanda Busse agrees. "We have the ambition and determination to inspire people to find natural resources and make a living from them," she said. "The American dream is still there." Their sons are learning the business alongside them, and have moved from wire-wrapping their pieces to doing more soldering and even learning to cut and facet and make cabochons, a rounded stone. "There is still stuff to learn," said Busse, her children about her, her husband still recovering from injuries received during a rough mining season this year.

Meanwhile, closer to us here in Lake George, Rich Frettdart decided to donate the 348 pound smoky quartz crystal he mined in Lake George to the Teller County District Museum in memory of his late brother Vincent, with whom he often mined. The crystal was four feet and five inches in length once reconstructed.

On the shows latest episodes, Amanda Adkins



The Busse family hard at work. (Photo from their website)

Anderson has finally revealed that her relationship with mining partner Travis Anderson was becoming something quite serious. Anderson, who had lost a spouse to leukemia a few years ago, something she still has a hard time discussing, was left with seven children to raise alone. After a brief stint as a model, with her part Cherokee exotic good looks loving the camera lens as much as she herself loved prospecting, Anderson just couldn't do the modeling and wanted back out in the open. She was a hermit, used to spending 90 percent of her time alone along the Front Range, and she returned to what she knew best. As a teenager she was "blessed" to spend a lot of time with a cousin, Oakley, a geologist in his '70's. He took Anderson and her father, now 83, and showed them all the mineral rich areas in the state. They began with placer mining for gold and vein recovery, then moved into gemstones. "He basically gave us a jump start," said Anderson.

When Mt. Antero is snowed in she prospects along the Front Range, including Lake George. Anderson works these areas sporadically, knowing she is being watched and any claim she files is bound to be surrounded within days by competitors, which has happened to her in the past.



Amanda Adkins Anderson and her husband, Travis Anderson. photo from Amanda Adkins Anderson.

So she keeps her family secrets close. "Plus," said Anderson, "Travis has an extensive background in mining. I've found more gem pockets than ever this year, and I attribute that to working with a mining partner as experienced as I am." They were married on April 24 of this year.

These families and their children will continue to brave all that these high altitude environs have to offer, hoping for that once-in-a-lifetime find; not just for fame, or riches, or even the life those riches could bring. No, these Prospectors have the rare-earth addiction in their blood, and they'll keep seeking the excitement of that next amazing find.

For those interested in learning more about this Colorado sport, please see the side bar "Where, When and How to Begin," and watch TWC on Sunday nights for the new episodes of Prospectors.

Where, when, and how to begin prospecting.

by Christine Ford

There has been a large amount of curiosity and questions on the Prospectors Facebook page which all boils down to: How do I get started? I want to be a prospector!

Considering the literally hundreds of thousands of acres of Government land available all over the United States, it shouldn't be too difficult to find a weekend hiking spot to begin with. There are some types of mineral grounds all over the United States.

From finding where claims are located to how to file on one for yourself, one of your best resources will be your local BLM or Bureau of Land Management office. They can not only advise you on where the best mineral ground in the area is located, they are the ones who will issue you that all important claim when and if you reach that point. Talk to your local office, get the correct brochures and terrain maps, and start planning your first rock-hounding trip.

Another option is to join a local Gem and Mineral Society. Frequently, these clubs own their own claims and even have reciprocal agreements to visit other club's claims, as well. They plan frequent field trips and welcome beginners with whom they can share their hard-earned knowledge and experience. Either way, be sure you respect private property, no trespassing signs, and claim markers, which should have a name and number displayed and the corners marked.

Either resource can get you pointed in the right direction. Then you need to assemble your gear. From proper clothing to survival gear, never let the mountain catch you unprepared. Always have a fully stocked first-aid kit in your vehicle, one for yourself, one for the vehicle, as well as emergency flares. A four wheel drive, high clearance vehicle and a careful driver are mandatory.

Assemble your pack, which should include a rock-pick and small, collapsible shovel, a water spray bottle for cleaning specimens, drinking water, matches in a waterproof container, flashlight, and a lighted jeweler's loupe: a cool little device that will give you invaluable information about the rocks you are finding. Carry pads or blankets, as well as gloves and knee protection, as you will spend hours kneeling in icy caves or out in a brutal, non-stop wind. This list is not meant to be all inclusive; it depends on what specific minerals you are after, and how far you are going to be from civilization if something goes wrong, but it's a good basic kit.

A Swiss army knife or "Leatherman" tool can be invaluable. If you are after aquamarines or tourmalines or other crystals, smaller more delicate tools, even tweezers, are a good idea. You should always have a terrain map of the area which clearly shows public lands vs. private, as well as claims. A GPS unit works mostly everywhere around here now, too. A field guide to rocks and minerals is available at your local bookstore and is essential, even a Mohs hardness scale to quickly differentiate your specimen types can be helpful.

Whenever possible, don't go out in the Forest or up on mountain ridges alone. Check with a local club for a digging partner first. If you must go out alone, make sure someone knows where you went (generally) and when you should be back, so a search can be started in a timely manner should you run into trouble. There are all kinds to run into out there, too, from claim jumpers to shifts and slides causing major injuries to lightening or sudden snow or rain storms. Be prepared to foot the bill, as well, if a major rescue party has to be launched for you! This country can be deadly.

These are the Rocky Mountains and Mt. Antero and Mt. White the highest gem fields of North America. If you are not accustomed to altitude, take it very gradually and in several steps of moving camp a few thousand feet each day or two to acclimate. Always clear the field you will be working of loose rock, which could roll or slip sideways into the pocket you are working in or fall below on another miner.

Because weather can change in the blink of an eye, dress in layers and wear natural fibers like cotton, silk or wool for best heat retention and wind blockage. Carry survival blankets if possible.

Finding a crystal pocket, a rare and special occurrence, can make all these precautions worthwhile. So, while proper advance preparation is a must, just remember to stay safe and have fun.

The Ute Country publishers wish to apologize for cutting off the photo credits from the December issue of this story. The Joe Dorris photo was courtesy of The Weather Channel, and the aquamarine photo was courtesy of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

New library display

The Ute Pass Historical Society, in conjunction with the Woodland Park Public Library, presents "Winter in Ute Pass". In the past, surviving the winters here required a certain amount of self-reliance. Snowy roads could hamper communication and transportation, and schools and businesses might close. Wintry conditions could hamper normal routine for days.

Despite the hardships, residents found opportunities to make their own entertainment.

Neighbors gathered together for food, games and fellowship at their homes, churches and community centers.

Winter in Ute Pass highlights items that a young family might enjoy: a toy train, a Raggedy Ann doll, and classic games like Bingo. Artifacts, photographs, and stories related to outdoor activities such as ice skating, sledding, and skiing are also featured.

The exhibit is on the third floor of the library, next to the Colorado Room, and runs through February. For more information, contact UPHS at 719.686.7512.



Mountain Top Cycling Club news

by Deborah Maresca

The Mountain Top Cycling Club would like to invite you to our Fourth Annual Membership Drive January 7th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Ute Pass Brewery. Join the Mountain Top Cycling Club Tuesday night and enjoy a spaghetti dinner.

Why join the MTCC? Come for the monthly meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of the month, and are always open to the public. We have really cool door prizes and great learning opportunities by presentations given by our guest speakers. How about the fact that you can visit and met fellow cyclists your age and at your riding ability? Then perhaps you would consider joining the MTCC because you cycle and you want to see more cycling in Teller County. Perhaps you used to cycle and you want to see more youth getting the opportunity to feel the freedom and reap the benefits that come from cycling.

Of course, there is the 10 percent discount off accessories that club members get at Team Telecycle and other selected bike shops

in Colorado Springs. Don't forget that club members always get the lowest price for any merchandise or events that the MTCC hosts. Not to mention the free spin classes from now till mid-March.

My favorite reason and I hope it is yours too, is that it is more fun to ride with someone, more challenging, more motivating, safer and rewarding.

The Mountain Top Cycling Club is an active member in the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce, Bicycle Colorado, and League of American Bicyclists. I hope you will show your support by joining the MTCC. We have some new and exciting programs for 2014. Now is your opportunity to volunteer on special events, community events and be a part of a growing organization that is promoting cycling in Teller County.

Membership is \$25.00 for individuals and \$40.00 for families. You can visit our website www.mountaintopcyclingclub.com or call Debbie 719-687-2489.

Holiday cheer at Lake George Charter School

by Denise Kelly and Maurice Wells

Close to 300 parents and friends filled the school auditorium to experience the holiday presentation by the students and staff. Under the direction of Deanna Daniel, Music Director, the students took the audience on a tour of "A World of Christmas". Traditional songs from around the world were performed while principal Bill Fredenburg and 3rd grade teacher Cheryl Kuitz shared interesting facts and anecdotes throughout the evening. The program was highlighted by a visit from Santa.



Principal Fredenburg interviews Santa. photo by Rob Gleghorn

Winter river fishing

by Jeff Tacey

With the New Year here, it's time to go fishing. I'm not talking about sitting on the ice of a frozen lake; I'm talking about winter river fishing. Chances are your best bet is fishing below a dam below a reservoir.

As most rivers are frozen or too cold to fish properly, some good places to go are the Arkansas River below Pueblo Reservoir. You can catch trout, walleye and bass in the river, artificial flies and lures only.

Also try the South Platte River below the Cheesman Reservoir by Deckers, artificial flies and lures only. The South Platte River near Hartsel and Lake George below Spinney Mountain Reservoir, and Elevenmile Reservoir can also be productive in the wintertime, artificial flies and lures only.

Trount must be returned to the water immediately, brown, cutthroat and rainbow trout dominate this section of the South Platte River.

Some of the high country rivers are fishable between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. when the sun is out. These rivers are popular with skiers and include the Blue River below Dillon Reservoir by Silverthorne, the Frying Pan River below Rubei Reservoir by Aspen, the Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir by Steamboat Springs, and the Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir by Crested Butte. These areas require a further drive but are worth it.

Waders are required and snow will be deep. Small midge and mysis shrimp flies will work well. Also small kasmaster and crocodile spoons 1/4 or 1/8 ounce will catch fish.

Check the 2014 Colorado fishing guide for all rules and regulations.

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Andrey Atuchin: An Interview with a Natural History Illustrator

by Jack Shimon, Pikes Peak Pebble Pups
(Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society)

I met Andrey by email this summer when I requested permission to use a piece of his art in a story I was writing about *Nasutocera-tops*. Of the images I found online his was my favorite. When I was finding a way to contact him I discovered that he has a whole online gallery of dinosaur artwork and it is very good! I was fascinated by the idea that this was his job. Andrey and his family, wife Svetlana and son Daniil (probably the youngest dinosaur expert in Russia), live in the provincial city Kemerovo, in South-Western Siberia, the center of Russia, which is a country very different than my own, although we both have dinosaurs. Being a curious 3rd grader I asked if I could interview him about his job and how he got started in such a remote part of the world (I looked at his hometown on Google Maps). Like me, Andrey was fascinated by dinosaurs and science as a kid, but his career began with his imagination and love of art.

Andrey calls himself a Natural History Illustrator because of the wide range of subjects he illustrates. I have also learned that his skills aren't limited to traditional forms of art and that he also does ice sculpting, makes polymer clay dinosaurs, and preserves beetles, among other things. His official career began in 2004 when he got an offer from the British publisher Anness to illustrate Dougal Dixon's illustrated encyclopedias of dinosaurs. He loved painting encyclopedias, where a variety of animals are painted in the same style. Like many of us as little kids, like five and six years old, he had a fascination with dinosaurs and was given his first set of plastic toy dinosaurs by his sister who found them in Moscow. After that he relied on books and articles in magazines, although he didn't have the endless choices like we do here.

Following is my interview of Andrey conducted by email. He was very patient answering my questions, and then a second round of questions after I read his responses, and I had a lot of fun learning about what he does. I think you will really enjoy his story and after you read it you should go online to his gallery and check out his art.

What type of education did you have for this job?

I am a biologist by education. I graduated from university from the Department of Zoology and Ecology. Originally, I wanted to work as a Paleontologist, but at the university I had to study leaf beetles as there was no department of paleontology or related professions.

Before then I studied at an art school for children for a couple years. One day I brought my drawings to the art school and showed them to the teachers. I drew dinosaurs by pencil and gouache (paint similar to watercolor but the artist can control the opacity) and I painted beetles, which I collected. The teachers allowed me into the art school without an exam. I also took personal lessons in drawing.

You mentioned a beetle collection; I really want to hear more about that.

When I was 13-14 years old I started to collect insects in the field. I liked to find new species (new for my collection) and define them by using a special book with a key. I mounted them on a pin and then I drew them with gouache (beetles mostly): leaf-beetles (Family Chrysomelidae), longhorn beetles (Family Cerambycidae), ladybugs (Family Coccinellidae), ground beetles (Family Carabidae), and many others. I even engaged myself in growing larvae (mainly leaf-beetles and ladybirds) and recorded in a notebook the dates and sketched larvae and pupae.

How did you learn English?

I learned English in school. At first, I was making great progress, but in high school we had a terrible teacher, a wicked witch. Because of this, I stopped my knowledge of English. The result is that I got a bad grade on the school certificate. Then I strongly improved my knowledge in college. At university I was again out of luck with the teacher. However, I have independently studied the language, read articles, and communicate on the internet.

What was the first dinosaur you ever did?

Hmm... I really can't remember now. But I remember how and why I started to draw dinosaurs. The first drawings I made were in 1994 under the impression of the film "Jurassic Park". I think it was the *Tyrannosaurus* that attacks *Ornithomimids*. Translated foreign books about dinosaurs began to pass in our country, probably on a wave of popularity of dinosaurs after the movie. Encyclopedias! I love encyclopedias. But Russian books about dinosaurs were a rarity, especially in provincial regions. In my town, I did not even know that there was such a wonderful book with pictures by Zdenek Burian (a Czech painter and book illustrator whose work played a central role in the development of paleontological reconstructions). One day in the book store I saw an amazing and terrific book - an illustrated encyclopedia of dinosaurs

by Dougal Dixon. I had never seen such a book. It included many different dinosaurs with their Latin names, colorful images, description, and most importantly - the figures of a skeletons and skulls. This book has been read so much by me that it is falling apart.

So you can understand my feelings when I received the offer to illustrate Dougal Dixon's new illustrated encyclopedia of dinosaurs in 2004. I didn't believe it... such an amazing coincidence.

The lack of books with quality illustrations prompted me to start drawing illustrations myself. I just wanted to read a good book about dinosaurs and started drawing dinosaurs how I wanted to see them in a book.

What is your favorite dinosaur and have you drawn it for publication before?

In fact, I do not have a favorite dinosaur. Rather, I love groups of dinosaurs. I love *Hadrosaurs*, *Ceratopsians*, and *Abelisaurs* and some others. I often and gladly draw dinosaurs from these groups for publication.

What do you use to make your art- paint, colored pencils, water colors, or is everything digital painting?

Earlier, I used a pencil, ink (for skeletons, bones), gouache, and watercolor. I did a lot of watercolor drawings for the books for Anness publishing: dinosaurs, prehistoric creatures, insects and flowers. Now I paint mainly in digital graphics, although I'm using a very similar style as if I was painting with a brush and paints. Digital graphics gives me freedom, more opportunities to do so as I would like, to correct some errors (watercolor does not forgive mistakes and I have to repaint again). Also in my spare time I sculpt dinosaurs by using polymer clay.



Excavations in Sharipovo

Since no one has ever seen a living non-avian dinosaur do you work with paleontologists or other scientists to understand how they look? Such as how tall they are, frills, horns or ridges, etc? Or are you asked to illustrate a dinosaur and you have to figure out what you think it looks like?

I believe that if someone wants to be a professional illustrator then he must study the subject. For example, a good illustrator who specializes in drawing birds should be an ornithologist or a biologist. That is the best way to do professional artwork. My education helps me in my work as I know well the animals, their anatomy, behavior, evolution, ecology, and more. I study science books and original publication about dinosaurs. I also consult with paleontologists to collaborate and work together with them. Sometimes I study the real bones, take part in expeditions and excavations, and prepare fossils. In fact I am a research scientist first and foremost, and I have learned as an artist in the second turn to qualitatively depict animals. Often, I will illustrate the dinosaurs based on my own speculation which is based on my science background.

Where have you been on your excavating trips? Just within Russia? Have you found fossils of dinosaurs you have drawn?

Yes, just within Russia. I had never been abroad at all, with the exception of one city in China, on the border with Russia. It is very expensive for my budget to go abroad, and there are often difficulties with visas. I participated in excavations in Blagoveshchensk, Far East Russia which is the location of the bone-bed of Late Cretaceous dinosaurs, *Hadrosaurs* mainly. I drew dinosaurs from that place - *Amurosaurus riabini* for example, *Olorotitan arharensis* (from another location - Kundur), *Kundurosaurus*, *Tyrannosaurids*. Also I studied the bones of *Amurosaurus* and *Olorotitan* and reconstruct them by making drawings of the skulls and the skeleton that appears in scientific publications.



Andrey Atuchin

I took part in one digging in Sharipovo. It's near the border of our region and has Middle Jurassic bone-beds that contain fish, turtles, crocodiles, mammals, *Stegosaurs*, saurpods, theropods and ornithischians. Do you know the *Kilekus* - the huge *Tyrannosauroid* similar to *Guanlong* and *Proceratosaurus*. I drew this one too.

Near my town we have the location of Early Cretaceous fauna with *Psittacosaurus sibiricus*.

What about colors and design? Who decides what coloring each dinosaur has? Color wasn't preserved in fossils like the basic structure. Is it a guess? Do you ever want to do something really crazy with the color or design? Sort of like the pattern on *Sinocera-tops zhuchengensis* (which we really like).

Excellent question. I use color exclusively for the more lively and naturalistic perception of the viewer. The human brain is accustomed to perceive the world in color, we see the colorful world. Therefore, colored drawing will look more natural for us. When we picture an animal that has been extinct for millions of years and it is not easy to find modern equivalent of it, it is very important that the audience believe that this is a real animal, so it is perceived plausible, natural and alive. To make the color more natural you can explore how modern animals are colored, relatives of dinosaurs, crocodiles, other reptiles, and birds. You can try to imagine what kind of lifestyle or habitat led to such coloration of a dinosaur and paint it accordingly. Ultimately this is a reconstruction of coloration - we still cannot claim it as truth. The aim is to look natural, for better perception as a once living animal. Also, I do color design so that the animal looked aesthetically beautiful.

However, in recent years many publications revealed remains of coloration of dinosaurs. For example the study of fossil melanosomes can answer how feathered dinosaurs were colored, the presence of spots, a striped tail and what color is it. It is also possible that patterns on the scales of mummies of *Hadrosaurs* and skin impressions may be indicative of color, and in this case they were striped or spotted. Traces of color were found in one fossilized *Psittacosaurus*. In these cases we can reconstruct the color and pattern and not only to look natural like a living being, but also to show the real color pattern. That's an amazing thing that science had brought to us in recent years.

As for the crazy color, I still prefer a more natural color and not too flashy, but with interesting design.

How many dinosaurs have you drawn? Who do you do the artwork for?

Oh, it's very hard to count them all, hundreds of them. I make drawings for books, encyclopedias, and magazine articles. Recently I painted birds, amphibians, insects and mammals of the Red Book of my region. Also, I create illustrations and murals for museums around the world. Sometimes I create textures for 3D animals which are created by a colleague 3d modeler and 3d artist Vlad Konstantinov.

You said you have done murals for museums- any in the United States?

Yes, I have one in the new beautiful Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City. They made the mounted skeleton of the new (unpublished) *Tyrannosaurus* from Utah and this exposition now has my new mural behind the skeleton.

We looked at the image of *Psittacosaurus* in Vlad's gallery that you textured. It is AMAZING. But I do have a question about the things on the tail... are those quills like a porcupine? How did you know about those? I have a new appreciation for how you create and color your dinosaurs after learning about the fossil melanosomes (my mom explained those to me).

The fact is there is one great fossil *Psittacosaur* from China that has bristle-like structures

on the base of the tail. Therefore you can usually see some *Psittacosaurus* from different artists who drew it with such bristles. Maybe they are like bristles, maybe like porcupine quills, but more thin and flexible I think.

The *Psittacosaurus sibiricus* created by Vlad and I has bristles because the customer asked us to do that.

Do you draw other things besides dinosaurs and insects? What is your favorite thing to draw?

Yes. I draw other animals, ancient and modern. I even painted Ediacaran organisms and Devonian fish, ammonites, trilobites, and much more. Ironically, among other things I have grown fond of astronomy. I love space, planets and stars. As a child I drew pictures on the theme of space. This fascination came in handy when I was asked to draw a spaceship for the GEO magazine. If you're an illustrator and live in Russia, then you should be able to draw a lot of things far from your specialization otherwise remain out of work and earnings.

How many drafts or works in progress does it take to come up with the final design for your dinosaur?

In fact, I start working in my imagination where I create most of the sketches. There is a severe selection of sketches in my head. As a result, the paper gets 1-3 sketches. Often I already know what I want to paint and how, so I immediately start drawing a rough draft, which I continue to the finished artwork. I have very limited space to work with. I just have nowhere to work with a lot of sketches, so digital graphics - it's a good way out for me.

What would you like to tell kids interested in natural history illustration?

Just do what you love and what you interested in, no matter what. Be amazed at this world, love it, learn and study. Study nature, watch, and be curious. And do not stop drawing. Drawing, drawing, drawing. Perhaps you will become professionals, and maybe it will be only a hobby, it's not important, as long as it makes you happy.

You can see why I had such a wonderful time with my interview of Andrey. I told him the digital painting of his was my favorite from his gallery and he sent me the image to share with all of you. Thank you Andrey!

Notes:

1. <http://dinoart1.narod.ru/>
2. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zden%C4%9Bk_Burian
3. <http://swordlord.cgsociety.org/gallery/1090073/>
4. Image provided courtesy of Andrey Atuchin.
5. <http://swordlord.cgsociety.org/gallery/1090073/>



About the author:

Jack Shimon is a member of the Pikes Peak Pebble Pups in Colorado Springs, and is in the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Unit. He is in 3rd grade and also enjoys cub scouts, mountain biking and playing the drums.

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No bugs, no fish...know bugs, know fish!

by Robert Younghanz, The Bug Guy

I often tell the story to my students about the moment, as a novice fly fisherman that the importance of having a solid understanding of aquatic entomology literary hit me right between, as well as directly in my eyes. Let me explain.

There I was standing, waist deep in the middle of the North Platte River. I was amid a plague of emerging insects of biblical proportions. My arms, hands face and head were covered in bugs. My waders, sunglasses and hat were carpeted; I was literally eating and breathing the hatch! There were aquatic insects crawling up my waders from the bottom of the river and trout were feeding all around me on both the emergers and adults with reckless abandon. A fly fisherman's dream, right? Well, not exactly. In that moment I experienced a plethora of emotions ranging from unbridled excitement, confusion, panic and finally a sense of being completely overwhelmed. The sad reality was that I had no idea whatsoever what this immense cloud of insects that encircled me actually was.

As a logical consequence of my ignorance I couldn't even begin to guess which fly I should tie on to the end of my line in order to, as the famous aquatic entomology and fly fisherman Ernest Schwiebert put it, "Match The Hatch". It was at that very instant that the light bulb turned on for me. I was acutely aware of how absurd it was for a fly fisher to be perusing this addiction without understanding the fulcrum of the entire sport, knowing what the trout are eating. This

made about as much sense to me as a lifeguard that is afraid of the water and doesn't know how to swim. I left the river that day, dejected and determined to never let this happen again. Within a year, I had entered the graduate program at CSU in Aquatic Entomology.

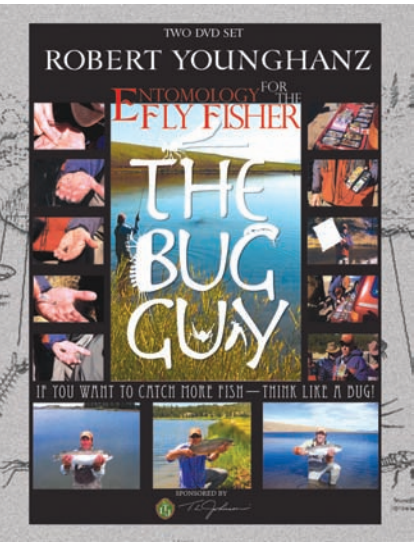
It was never a matter of me saying to myself, "Why should care or waste my time learning all that boring biology stuff?" I just had other priorities; after all, to this day I still cast my fly rod like I'm throwing a hatchet at a tree. Intuitively, I knew it was important but hey, so what if I am clueless about all those bugs flying around. After all I have all the best equipment, \$1500 rod and reel, \$600 waders and boots, a fancy vest and sunglasses and a way too many fly boxes filled with patterns of which I have no clue as to what they are supposed to imitate. Plus, all evidence to the contrary, my local fly shop will set me up with the right patterns, right? Well I've since learned over these many years that while shop dogs like me really do our best to sell customers the most productive patterns for a specific body of water, we ultimately cannot predict with a 100 percent certainty what will be happening once you get to the water. Surprise!

Aquatic entomology is that elephant in the room that most fly fishers tend to avoid addressing. On a gut level we all want to be knowledgeable on the subject, yet we often pretend it doesn't exist or that it's unimportant, for the simple fact that it is

the one area of fly fishing that we are the most uncomfortable with. This uncomfortableness that I am referring to is not without justification. In my opinion having a basic understanding of aquatic entomology is it is the single most difficult aspect of fly fishing for an angler to learn, the irony being, that it is arguable the most important.

By some miracle of God, or as my very supportive fly fishing buddies like to claim because I sold my soul to the devil, my DVD, "The Bug Guy: Entomology For The Fly Fisher," has become the top selling "bug" DVD in the country. Aside from the fact that there is very little competition in this area (it's kind of like making a DVD of the subject of goat shaving) I realized though my own experience that fly

fishers were hungry for a tool that enabled them to get their heads wrapped around what type of food sources are available to trout, the life cycles of these food sources and what fly patterns one should use to imitate them. Books and streamside guides certainly have their place as instructional tools, but exclusively looking at pictures and reading long drawn out paragraphs can often make things more confusing to the fly fisher when trying



to get a handle on this tricky subject. While nothing beats spending time with an instructor in the classroom or on the water, the DVD format seems to be a close second. As my buddy Scott Tarrant, fly fishing guide extraordinaire likes to say, "No Bugs, No Fish...Know Bugs, Know Fish".

January 16 through 19, I will be at the International Sportsman's Exposition in Denver where I will be offering programs on the topic of aquatic insects. Also stop by The Bug Guy booth and meet a few of your river dwelling neighbors hanging out in my live aquatic insect tank.

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

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- ALMA**
 3 Rising Lion at Alma's Only Bar. Call 719-836-2214 for more info.
 10 The Living Wills at Alma's Only Bar. Call 719-836-2214 for more info.
 17 Big Medicine Gang at Alma's Only Bar. Call 719-836-2214 for more info.
 24 King and I at Alma's Only Bar. Call 719-836-2214 for more info.
 25 Alma Foundation Murder Mystery (Disco Diva Dies) Cocktails 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6 p.m. Alma Town Hall. Pitch In Dinner, proceeds to Alma Foundation projects. 719-836-2712 for more information.
 31 High Five at Alma's Only Bar. Call 719-836-2214 for more info.

- DIVIDE**
 12 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.
 26 Divide Little Chapel on the Hill – Food Pantry 4:30pm-6:30pm. For more info 719-322-7610.
 • Wellness Hour meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Lost Dutchman Resort at 2 p.m. Please call 719-689-0431 for more information or email marty@wechoshhealth.net!

- ELEVENMILE RESERVOIR**
 8 Colorado Classic Ice Fishing Tournament, 2014 Series. See article page 9.

- FAIRPLAY**
 25 Chili cookoff from Boys and Girls Club of South Park 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hut 601 Clark Street, Fairplay. 719-838-0757 for

more information.

- FLORISSANT GRANGE**
 10 Game Night 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 18 Pine needle basket making class 9 a.m. to noon. Call 719-748-0358 for more information.
 25 Grange Breakfast 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Janu 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.

- GUFFEY**
 25 Bullmoose: January birthday party featuring Lissa Hanner and Super Chuck. Please call 719-689-4199 for more information.

- LAKE GEORGE**
 25 Community Cook-off and Tasting Party 4:30 p.m. if bringing food and recipe or 5 p.m. just to eat. Lake George Charter School, sponsored by the library 719-748-3812 for more information.

- LAKE GEORGE LIBRARY**
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 4th Fri: 9:15 a.m. 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 p.m. 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.

- ONLINE CLASS**
 11 QFM Quest for Mastery online classes, learn these tools that can help you to manifest your highest potential, and overcome issues in your life. This program is based on the Wisdom teachings of Archangel Michael. For more information email Jimena at jimena.yantorno@gmail.com or call 719-306-0772. Classes offered in English and Spanish.

- UTE PASS HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
 26 the Ute Pass Historical Society will hold their Annual Patron Luncheon at the Ute Pass Cultural Center. Open to the public, 1:45 pm. Presentation entitled Colorado Midland: A Train Ride, by Mel McFarland. 719-686-7512 or utepasshistoricalsociety.org.

- WOODLAND PARK CEILI CLUB**
 18 Ceilis (pronounced "kay-lees") are public Irish folk dance social parties. No dance experience is required, open to all ages. Woodland Park Community Church gym from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. No admission charged, but donations are encouraged.

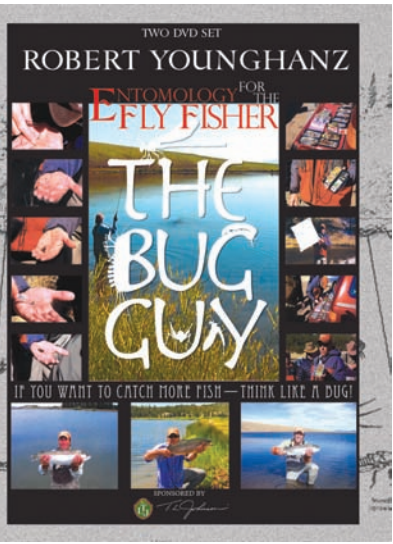
- Sponsored by Mountain Eire Irish Dancers, www.mountaineire.org for information, or email Mickie Richardson at mountaineire@yahoo.com.

- WOODLAND PARK DINOSAUR RESOURCE CENTER**
 18 Storigami Program from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tales with a twist. Learn the ancient technique of Origami while enjoying a tale or two about dinosaurs and a strange donkey. Appropriate for all ages. Parents are encouraged to participate. Denise Gard tells stories using the ancient art of Origami. Make a dog, a Sumuri helmet, and a dinosaur. Color your creations and let your inner child shine through. Location: Dinosaur Resource Center, 201 S. Fairview St., Woodland Park, CO see website: <http://www.rmdrc.com> for more information.

- WOODLAND PARK SENIOR CLUB**
 21 David Martinek, of the Ute Pass Historical Society (also Flood Realty) will give a slideshow about "The History & Renovation Plans of the Midland Depot" at the WP Senior Citizens Club, 312 N. Center St., 719-687-3877. The luncheon will be provided by Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. The meal is free, however, donations to the Senior Center are most welcome. Please rsvp to Karen Earley at 719-686-5802 or karenearley@pprh.net. Remember to look us up on Facebook (Pikes Peak Regional Hospital & Surgery Center Facebook), our pictures are a hoot!

- WOODLAND PARK FARMER S MARKET**
 11 Inside Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Avenue, Woodland Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See page 6 for more information or call (719) 689 3133 or 648 7286 email: tcfma@q.com

- WOODLAND PARK LIBRARY**
 21 The Wholistic Networking Community invites you to meet area practitioners and learn about holistic wellness from 11-12:30 at the Rampart Public Library,



to get a handle on this tricky subject. While nothing beats spending time with an instructor in the classroom or on the water, the DVD format seems to be a close second. As my buddy Scott Tarrant, fly fishing guide extraordinaire likes to say, "No Bugs, No Fish...Know Bugs, Know Fish".

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- Woodland Park. "Wholistic" in our name includes all who pursue conscious living, a healthy lifestyle and desire a peaceful, natural world. Third Tuesday of every month. Discover your God-given qualities to make miracles. Barbara Royal, Angel Therapy Practitioner® and Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director, will be your guide through a meditative journey of discovery, transformation and manifestation of your personal miracle. For more information or to RSVP, contact Barbara at 719-687-6823 or miraclesofwellness@gmail.com.

- WOODLAND PARK SENIOR CLUB**
 21 David Martinek, of the Ute Pass Historical Society (also Flood Realty) will give a slideshow about "The History & Renovation Plans of the Midland Depot" at the WP Senior Citizens Club, 312 N. Center St., 719-687-3877. The luncheon will be provided by Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. The meal is free, however, donations to the Senior Center are most welcome. Please rsvp to Karen Earley at 719-686-5802 or karenearley@pprh.net. Remember to look us up on Facebook (Pikes Peak Regional Hospital & Surgery Center Facebook), our pictures are a hoot!

- WOODLAND PARK SPIN CLASSES**
 6 David Kriegshauser will continue spin classes at the PARADOX Beer Company 6:30 p.m. This is a great way to unwind after the work week and start the weekend. Free to club members,

- 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 15 minutes. Call Debbie for more information 719-687-2489.

- WOODLAND PARK PIKES PEAK OFFICE CENTER**
 Reiki Level I certification, in Woodland Park. "Reiki is a Japanese technique for stress reduction and relaxation that also promotes healing. Class is held at 321 W. Henrietta Ave, Suite 1E in Woodland Park. (Reiki.org). For more information email Jimena at jimena.yantorno@gmail.com or call 719-306-0772.

- WOODLAND PARK FREE SPIRITUAL LAW STUDY GROUP**
 Free spiritual law study group meets weekly every Saturday morning. Learn how to have a happy, healthy, prosperous life by working with the spiritual principles that govern our world. Facilitated by Barbara Royal, Interfaith Certified Spiritual Director, Certified Angel Therapy Practitioner. For more information, call 719-687-6823 or email MiraclesofWellness@gmail.com.



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